Gloria seeks damages from Canadian mining firm

STORY ON PAGE A2

Foreign media find Basilan no Kabul

By Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Foreign journalists lured by the idea of covering a war zone have admitted to the INQUIRER that they were misinformed about the arrival of US troops in Mindanao.

Armed Forces spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan said more than 100

FOREIGN/A16

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Balikatan war games finally start tomorrow

By M. Marfil and C. Herrera

THE CHIEF of the Armed Forces of the Philippines' Southern Command yesterday announced that the RP-US Balikatan 02-1 would formally open tomorrow, but it remained unclear why the ceremony had been postponed for a day.

Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu told defense re-

BALIKATAN/A16

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Wednesday, January 30, 2002 ★ 50 pages / 4 sections / vol.17 / no. 53 P15 website: www.inq7.net

'Demolition man' is key

PNP: Jailed Indon can unravel al-Qaida's Asean network

AN INDONESIAN bomb expert jailed here is the key to unraveling the al-Qaida network in the Asean region, according to police officials.

The disclosure came as the top US military commander in the Asia-Pacific region yesterday said in Singapore that US forces would focus on making Southeast Asia "inhospitable" to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terror network.

Admiral Dennis Blair, commander in chief of the US Pacific Command, said "the focus of our activities is . . . to make it as inhospitable for terrorists to come here as possible so that they won't think that they can come and form their cells and do their dirty work against innocent citizens."

"That's really the focus of the efforts of all of us in the region," Blair told a news conference after receiving the Meritorious Service Medal from the Singapore government.

Of all the suspected terrorists arrested in Southeast Asia recently, Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi intrigues authorities the most.

The 30-year-old Indonesian, who speaks many regional languages and holds five passports, has been under interrogation since his arrest in Manila in the middle of January.

Regional intelligence sources suggest that Al-Ghozi is the al-Qaida's "demolition man" and key figure in Jemaah Islamiyah, a group described by authorities as an Islamic terror network active in Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia.

"Basically what we have deduced is that this is a regional terrorist group operating within Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore and the Philippines—and most likely Thailand," Chief Supt. Crescencio Maralit of the Philippine National Police told Agence France Presse.

DEMOLITION/A15

NO TURNING back on the "war games" with the arrival in Zamboanga City on Tuesday of Brig. Gen. Donald Wurster (center), head of US Special Operations Pacific Command, who's being escorted by Philippine Air Force Lt. Col. Carliz Donila (2nd from left). DENNIS SABANGAN

Zambo folk hail US soldiers as 'liberators'

ZAMBOANGA CITY—American soldiers are being hailed as heroes and "liberators" here as a senior US government official claims that the troops are needed to bring stability to the Philippines and to lure foreign investors.

Residents of this mainly Roman Catholic port city say they hope the arrival of US military forces with modern equipment and gadgetry will finally free them from the threat of bandit groups.

"We were afraid of the Abu Sayyaf, but now at least there is hope that the problem will be solved," sales clerk Grace Lopez, 27, told Agence France Presse.

Zamboanga's 650,000 population has been haunted by armed incursions by Abu Sayyaf kidnappers and other armed groups from mainly Muslim surrounding islands in recent years.

When gunmen allied to Moro leader Nur Misuari attacked Zamboanga last November, they barged into the home of local journalist Jose Marie Bue and abducted his pregnant wife and six children, aged one to 13, along with more than 100 other villagers.

ZAMBO/A16

NPA warns American troops they are targets

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau
Gerald G. Lacuarta
and Agnes E. Donato

THE NEW PEOPLE'S Army yesterday warned that it would target American soldiers if they go to its territory.

"Should these so-called US military experts wander into an NPA territory, our comrades may not possibly resist the temptation to seize them," Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal, spokesperson of the Communist Party of the Philippines, said. The NPA is the CPP's army.

But exiled CPP leader Jose Ma. Sison said Fil-Am members of the US contingent visiting their relatives in the country would not be harmed.

"The NPA will not fire at or seize my province mates, who joined the US armed forces, if they are just visiting relatives and are not in combat gear," said Sison, chief political consultant of the National Democratic Front. Sison hails from Ilocos Sur but is based in The Netherlands.

Sison advised the legal opposition not to totally rely on the Supreme Court to resolve the constitutional issue being raised against the presence of American troops in the country.

"Mass action should still be the preferred option. A petition with the Supreme Court could just result in complacency on the part of those against the presence of

NPA/A16

Benny Tan's nightmare ends; not guilty

By Volt Contreras

A 15-YEAR-OLD nightmare came to an end for a former ambassador to the Vatican yesterday, when the Sandiganbayan found Bienvenido Tan to have "acted in good faith" when he entered into a compromise agreement with San Miguel Corp. to settle the beer giant's tax deficiencies in 1987.

The anti-graft court reversed its March 2001 guilty verdict, ruling that Tan's "actions in this regard were well within his competence, discretion and authority to perform as Commissioner of Internal Revenue, and no basis exists to make him liable for violation of . . . RA No. 3019 (the anti-graft law)."

BENNY/A4

PR firm pays off; GMA on media blitz

BETWEEN IRON LADIES: President Macapagal receives former British PM, Baroness Margaret Thatcher, in her London hotel suite where she gets tips on governance from her "model." *(Story on Page A3)* AP

By Carlito Pablo and Fe Zamora

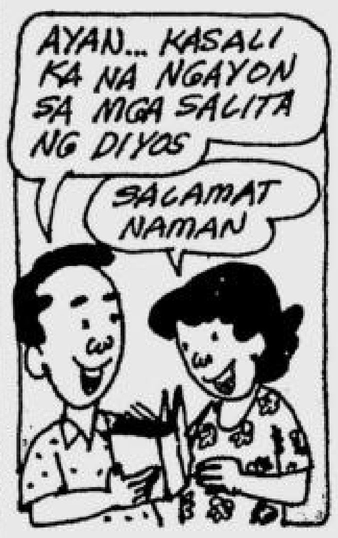
FOR THE second straight day, a somewhat embarrassed press secretary could not give a straight answer to the question: Who's financing the $-1 million international public relations campaign for President Macapagal-Arroyo?

Press Secretary Noel Cabrera invited Donaldo Dee, president of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines, to his media briefing in Malacañang yesterday to help him answer the question. But Dee was of little help.

While Dee admittedly endorsed the hiring of a topnotch international PR firm, Burson and Marsteller (B&M), he claimed he was not among the contributors to the kitty.

"I have to be very frank. I was never invited to join the group. But I'm just saying this thing is not a secret and not to be ashamed of," Dee said.

PR/A15


AYAN... KASALI KA NA NGAYON SA MGA SALITA NG DIYOS
SALAMAT NAMAN

Gender-neutral American Bible published soon

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colorado—America's best-selling modern Bible is about to get an update with more modern and "gender-neutral" wording.

The International Bible Society, an evangelical Christian organization, is planning to publish an updated version of its best-selling New International Version (NIV) of the Christian Holy Book in April.

The updated version, called Today's New International Version

GENDER-NEUTRAL/A4

Moreno got it dead wrong, says Desierto

By Michael Lim Ubac

OMBUDSMAN Aniano Desierto turned the tables on arch-critic Rep. Oscar Moreno Monday night, when he rebutted all six of Moreno's sensational allegations and said neither the oil firms nor the Chingkoe couple implicated in the P5.3-billion tax credit scam were already off the hook.

"We were the ones who initiated the investigation against the Chingkoe group because Task Force 156 slept on it," Desierto told INQUIRER editors and this reporter in a three-hour briefing.

He also said it was not true that executives of Pilipinas Shell and Petron were not included in the Chingkoe investigation.

He said an order from his office's Evaluation and Preliminary Investigation Bureau dated Jan. 11, 2002 had in fact subpoenaed Shell general manager Pacifico Cruz and Petron vice president Celso Legarda, as well as Faustino and Gloria Chingkoe, the owners of 12 companies involved in the scam.

In a news conference yesterday, Desierto accused Moreno, a congressman from Misamis Oriental and prosecutor in the Estrada impeachment trial, of "deceiving the public" and "bastardizing the impeachment process."

In a privileged speech a week ago, Moreno accused Desierto of deliberately undermining the case against both the Chingkoes and the oil executives by filing a case "destined for dismissal by design."

Yesterday, however, Desierto blasted Moreno for being ignorant of both the law and the facts.

"How could he say that I have whitewashed the investigation

MORENO/A4

USAPING TERRORISMO PA RIN!

Gloria duns Canadian mining firm

Placer Dome pressed for environment damage caused by Marcopper disaster

By Tony S. Bergonia
Assistant National Editor

OTTAWA—The Macapagal administration has taken to the doorstep of a Canadian firm here the quest for compensation of the people of a Philippine province whose livelihood were all but wiped out by a mining disaster in 1996.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, who arrives here today from London on the second leg of an 8-day visit to Britain, Canada and the United States, has given orders to speed up negotiations to claim payment for damages from the Canadian-based mining company Placer Dome.

Placer Dome owned 40 percent of Marcopper Mining Co., which in 1996, spilled up to 300 million tons of mine tailings into the Boac River and Calancan Bay in Marinduque province.

According to Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez, a member of the President's official delegation, the move to ask for compensation was aimed not just at giving justice to the people of Marinduque but also at convincing critics of the mining industry about the wisdom of environmentally sound mining practices.

Should Placer Dome be convinced to pay for the damages, the Philippine government could "restore confidence in mining, based on a sustainable development concept," said Alvarez.

Alvarez said Placer Dome could be made to pay up to $13 million based on early estimates of the amount needed to bring back the river and the bay to life.

Though the amount might not be enough to restore the river and bay's ecosystems, Alvarez said "the important thing is we fully rehabilitate the ecosystem."

This and the war on criminality and terrorism threaten to take the heat off the President's trade agenda when she meets with Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien today.

Although trade, money and other economic issues dominate Ms Macapagal's agenda, an agreement for the governments of the Philippines and Canada to host a seminar on how to implement a UN resolution to stop the smuggling of small firearms and other weapons has drawn the most attention.

Francisco Benedicto, Philippine ambassador to Canada, said the agreement is one of 12 that the President and Chretien would either sign or witness the signing of today.

The rest of the agreements are all about trade and the economy.

"It is an important agreement on ensuring the success of the government's campaign against criminality and terrorism," Press Undersecretary Roberto Capco said.

Under the agreement, the Philippines and Canada would invite non-government organizations to a seminar to be held in the Philippines in April.

The agreement hopes to draw responses and proposals on how to start an accurate monitoring of the illicit trade of small firearms by international underworld groups.

A Malacañang official said the agreement is part of an international enforcement of a United Nations resolution seeking to block the avenues for illegal weapons trade.

"Most crimes around the world are committed using small firearms," said Capco.

The agreement comes on the heels of Ms Macapagal's meeting with British Prime Minister Tony Blair during which they discussed new ways of combating terrorism.

It also comes at a time when the international community, led by the United States, is trying to tighten the noose around terrorist networks around the world, including those in the Philippines.

The agreement, said an official, would boost the two countries' efforts at fighting crime.

It would require the Philippines and Canada to monitor together the movement of illegal firearms in either of the two countries and share information on this.

Benedicto said the main agenda of Ms Macapagal's visit here is expanding trade between Canada and the Philippines which currently is worth $500 million in favor of the Philippines.

But should Ms Macapagal pursue what her officials said was a different approach to the war on terrorism, trade could play a major role in her concept of fighting terror.

They said more trade equals more job equals less poverty equals a weaker base for terrorism.

But when you talk of terrorism, they added, you have to talk about guns.

Abus tired and hungry —Reyes

THE MILITARY yesterday said that the Abu Sayyaf's main body was already tired and is having problems with supplies, including food.

Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu said this assessment was based on the confessions of four minors who were recently turned over to the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

The children, aged between 12 and 13 years old, were identified by some released hostages as members of the Abu Sayyaf.

Cimatu said that the four were allowed to go back to their families in Basilan by the Abu Sayyaf because the group was having problems with food supply.

"They said they were going hungry and that Abu Sabaya had been forced to allow his men to leave, starting with the children," Cimatu said.

The four were turned over by their parents to a military detachment early January. They were then turned over to the DSWD.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, meanwhile, assured Mary Jones, sister of kidnap victim Gracia Burnham, that the Philippine military had been told to recover Gracia and Martin Burnham alive.

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Palace sees $3-B windfall from UK visit

AT the end of President Macapagal-Arroyo's brief 29-hour working visit to London, the Philippine ambassador there predicted an increase of from $2 billion to $3 billion in British investments to the Philippines, a press statement from Malacañang said yesterday.

"The UK will remain to be a biggest investor of the Philippines for this year and for the coming year," Ambassador Cesar Bautista predicted, citing the forecast of experts involved in private sector negotiations between the two countries.

"That is the kind of interest we have seen so far between British and Philippine business leaders," he said.

British investments in the Philippines amounted to $800 million last year.

At the business briefing conducted by Energy Secretary Vicente Perez, Philippine officials noted that "British investors have taken a leading role in the Philippines over recent years."

Perez cited such investors as Unilever, Sehll, Jardine, Hong Kong Shanghai Banking Corp., Standard Chartered, British Gas, Glaxo, BAT, and United Biscuits.

UK-based firms also made major investments in infrastructure and manufacturing services, energy-related projects and fisheries.

Yesterday in London, the President witnessed the signing of a lease agreement on a 90-hectare property in Clark Field, Pampanga, which is to become the site of a world-class aircraft maintenance operations center.

The aircraft maintenance facility, to be constructed inside the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport Civil Aviation Complex, will cater for both commercial and military aircraft and is positioned to meet the anticipated shortfall in aircraft maintenance facilities by 2004 and beyond.

It will also help address the anticipated growth in passenger air travel in the Asia-Pacific region.

The project, with an estimated cost of $850 million, will be built over a period of seven to nine years.

It is expected to provide 47,000 jobs. The figure does not include the employment to be generated by the proposed aviation school.

Emerging from a 30-minute meeting with British Prime Minister Tony Blair on Monday at 10 Downing St., the UK premier's official residence, the President said the Prime Minister has offered to extend help to the Philippines in winning its battle against terrorism.

Ms Macapagal said she discussed with Blair why Basilan had become the home base of the Abu Sayyaf terrorists. The President also informed the British leader of the country's war against poverty in the areas where terrorism exists.

"He agreed that while we have the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank helping us in the war against poverty, he feels that the G-7 (industrialized countries) should be more active in this," she said.

The President said that Blair himself took the initiative to offer help to the Philippines, asking how the UK could help.

She asked Blair if Scotland Yard could assist the Philippine National Police in fighting organized crime, including kidnapping, which is also one of the principal tools used by terrorist groups in the country.

Britain's Iron Lady, former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, gave Ms Macapagal some tips on how to address some of the country's problems when she called on the President at her Dorchester Hotel suite in London early yesterday.

Ms Macapagal has said that she looked on Thatcher as a model "for the rest of us to follow."

Thatcher, now known as Baroness Thatcher, remains a powerful and influential figure in Britain.

"I am very pleased that you are now President. You have all my good wishes. I will watch everything that goes on. I'm sure all will go well," Thatcher told Ms Macapagal during their 45-minute talk.

Thatcher said population growth was a concern that can be addressed by providing people with quality education. "We have to get the very best teachers, particularly in mathematics and science, to do the course. We might have a better chance if we get good mathematics teachers," she said.

Thatcher also lamented that most of the world's problems were now being fought through wars, which she described as "so uncivilized."

The British leader gave Ms Macapagal a copy of her book, "Margaret Thatcher: The Downing Street Years."

It's final: Plunder law legal

THE SUPREME Court en banc yesterday junked with finality former President Joseph Estrada's petition seeking to declare the country's plunder law unconstitutional.

In its decision handed down yesterday, the Supreme Court dismissed for lack of merit the motion for reconsideration filed by Estrada's lawyers after his original petition was denied on Nov. 19 last year.

Estrada, through his lawyers, asked the Supreme Court to declare as unconstitutional R.A. 7090 or the country's legislation penalizing corruption that amounts to as much as P50 million.

His lawyers argued that the law on plunder is a vague form of legislation.

In handing down its decision with finality, the Supreme Court said that it found nothing in Estrada's motion for reconsideration that would compel the High Tribunal to change its earlier decision on the case.

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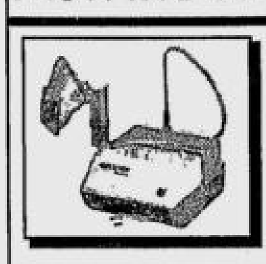

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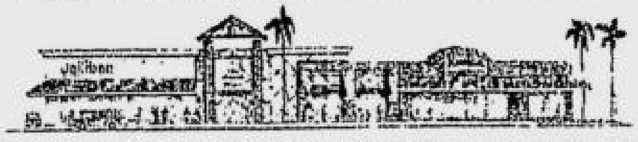

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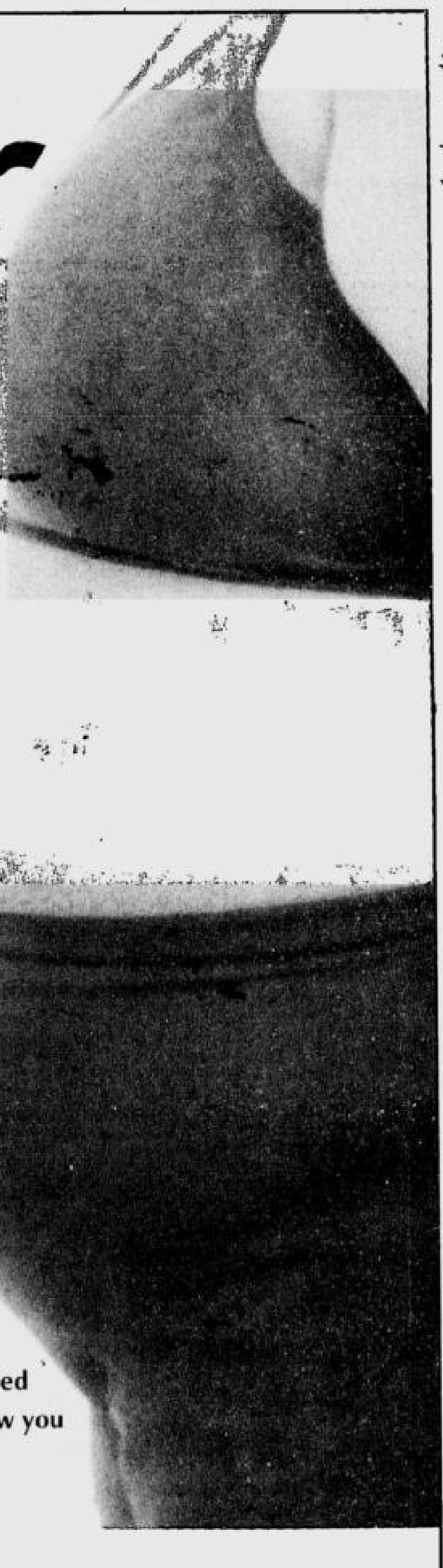

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Benny Tan's nightmare ends; not guilty

From page A1

The decision scrapped the 15-year jail term the court had earlier meted out on Tan, the BIR chief during the Aquino administration.

"I'm very happy and it gives me reason to believe in the justice system," Tan told the INQUIRER upon arriving in Manila from Davao City, where he had been visiting social development projects.

The decision acquitting Tan was contained in a 17-page resolution by the Sandiganbayan's fourth division chair Narciso Nario and concurred in by Associate Justices Nicodemo Ferrer and Raoul Victorino.

The court found Tan to have "acted in good faith" when he allowed San Miguel to pay only P10 million instead of P302.9 million to settle its tax deficiencies in 1987.

A group of urban poor residents in Malate whom Tan continues to help cheered when they learned about the decision: *"Hay, salamat sa Dios!* (Thanks be to God!)," they exclaimed. Last year, the group wrote letters questioning the Sandiganbayan's guilty verdict.

Former Senate President Jovito Salonga said: "I still have to read the decision, but his acquittal is a good thing. He deserves it. That's my point of view and I'm not an unbiased observer. I'm biased in his favor."

"God never forsakes those who believe," a member of Tan's family said, while a University of the Philippines professor quipped: "At last, I believe in the judiciary."

"What a relief," said his wife Emma Tan. "Although our lives went on as usual, we carried this burden for many years. The other four who were charged were acquitted earlier and he was alone to face this. I believe there is justice."

Tan, 78, was first found guilty of graft and corruption by the Sandiganbayan 's fourth division for entering into a compromise agreement with SMC which allegedly proved disadvantageous to the government. Tan's conviction then drew an outpouring of sympathy for the former Ambassador to the Vatican.

In his motion for reconsideration, Tan mainly argued that the court had "erred" when it regarded as "final and executory" his Oct. 8, 1987 letter containing the "disputed assessment" of SMC's tax dues.

To this the court said: "We agree with the accused. The (March 2, 2001) decision overlooked and failed to consider that there was the Oct. 27, 1987 meeting between SMC's representatives and the accused, which resulted in the referral of the assessment by the latter to Assistant Commissioner Maza for further study."

In his motion, Tan explained that he based his decision to forge a compromise with SMC on the findings of other BIR officials that showed "reasonable doubt" in pegging the firm's tax liabilities then at more than P300 million.

The other BIR officials referred to were Juanito Urbi, chief of the BIR prosecution division; Maza; and Alicia P. Clemeno, chief of the BIR legislative ruling and research division.

But the justices now ruled that: "No injury, undue or otherwise, has been caused to the government. The accused has not acted with manifest partiality, evident bad faith or gross inexcusable negligence. The accused acted in good faith and in accordance with his powers and functions as Commissioner of Internal Revenue."

"The compromise of SMC's tax entered (into) by the accused did not result in any injury to the government," it added.

In an interview with the INQUIRER days after his conviction, Tan explained that is was mainly Clemeno who recommended that SMC be taxed at only P21.8 million.

The reduction from P21.8 million to P10 million, he said, was done "in the spirit of goodwill and to avoid protracted litigation which will be costly to both parties."

The Office of the Ombudsman filed the graft charge against Tan in 1993.

Also accused were Urbi, Maza, SMC senior vice president and comptroller Nazario Avendano, and SMC assistant vice president Jaime De La Cruz.

But the Sandiganbayan cleared all the respondents except Tan in November 1995, upon a recommendation from the Ombudsman in January 1994.

Tan would later question why he was left alone to face the charge.

Moreno got it dead wrong, says Desierto

From page A1

DESIERTO: In the eye of the storm. JESS YUSON

(on the tax credit scam) and filed cases that are fatally flawed and designed to be dismissed when my office has just started its preliminary investigation on the cases? We are far from resolving the cases, more so filing the cases. It's wrong for Moreno to say that because we have barely started the preliminary investigation," he said.

Desierto also said Moreno was usurping the powers of the Supreme Court. "Rep. Moreno is insulting the Supreme Court since it should be the one that should say that I erred in handling the tax credit scam."

Moreno should have first asked the high court to censure him for grave abuse of discretion, he said. "It is not for him to pass judgment on the quasi-judicial actions of the Office of the Ombudsman. It's the job of the SC."

He also lambasted Moreno for his "ignorance of the law," saying the filing of the second impeachment complaint against him on Monday would "demean the supreme authority" of Congress.

In the House of Representatives, Speaker Jose de Venecia endorsed the second complaint to the justice committee. ***(See related story on Page A15.)***

Six issues

Desierto issued a four-page statement rebutting the six issues Moreno raised in his privilege speech.

On the allegation that the Office of the Ombudsman had "miserably failed to act on the tax credit scam," Desierto said it was actually he who initiated the investigation into the scam at least a year before Special Presidential Task Force 156, and that he had already filed a total of 175 criminal cases with the Sandiganbayan in 1999 and 2000.

Of the 175 cases, he added, 164 were investigated by his office while the rest were filed by the Economic Intelligence and Investigation Bureau.

But he charged that "Moreno suppressed these facts" and only highlighted the dismissal of 62 cases in his speech.

"The temporary debacle in the 62 cases should not detract from the fact that the Ombudsman is the single biggest factor for substantial inroads made by the government into the tax credit scam," Desierto said.

He said the fourth division of the Sandiganbayan, and not the Ombudsman's Office of the Special Prosecutor, was to blame for the dismissal.

"The court ordered the OSP to reinvestigate the cases, so we reinvestigated. But every time an accused filed a motion for reinvestigation, the court granted it. So how can we finish the reinvestigation in a month's time?"

The one-month period referred to the time between the date of the last separate motion for reinvestigation filed by the accused, in July 2001, and the dismissal of the 62 consolidated cases in August 2001. "The prosecution filed a strong motion for the recall of the court's queer and improvident verbal order. The same is pending resolution," he added.

In the Monday briefing, Desierto also confirmed that to date, the fourth division's order remained unwritten.

On Moreno's second and third allegations, that the Chingkoe couple and the oil firms were not included in the subpoena order and thus were effectively off the hook, Desierto said Moreno "only disclosed one of two orders."

But there is "another order" in the tax credit scam cases "which contain the names of the Chingkoes, and the Petron and Shell officials, directing them to file their counter-affidavits."

The second order is dated Jan. 11.

"This might elicit suspicion that the second order was only inserted," Desierto's statement read. "(But) insertion was impossible. The two orders were served within a simultaneous period. Further, the second order bears the receipt markings of third persons."

"The two orders account for all the respondents. So who was excluded? None! Who is being protected? None!" Desierto said.

He explained that the initial findings of the Fact-Finding and Intelligence Bureau did not include the Chingkoes and the oil officials, so the subpoena on Jan. 3 did not carry their names. When the FFIB later found sufficient evidence to indict the Chingkoes, Lergarda and Cruz, they were named respondents in the Jan. 11 subpoena.

A review of the Sept. 5, 2001 fact-finding report which served as the basis for the Jan. 3 subpoena, however, reveals that the Chingkoe spouses were already included in the list of "persons criminally liable" and named as respondents in the Oct. 17, 2001 complaint-affidavit.

Informal agreement?

In Moreno's privileged speech, Desierto was accused of reneging on an agreement reached with Task Force 156 to file 12 separate plunder cases involving the Chingkoe companies. After the speech, Task Force chair Finance Undersecretary Cornelio Gison confirmed that there was such an arrangement, and said he would ask the Ombudsman to formalize the "informal agreement" with a Memorandum of Agreement.

But on this issue, Desierto said Moreno and the Task Force were "very wrong" and dubbed the idea of separate plunder charges a "curious theory."

"Piecemeal filing of 12 plunder cases involving the Chingkoes' 12 companies, as conceived by Task Force 156 and endorsed by the gentleman from Misamis Oriental, is erroneus and fatally flawed," the Ombudsman said. "Only one plunder charge can be committed by a public officer during his term."

Under the law, a public official can be charged with plunder if he accumulated, through illegal means, more than P50 million in public funds through a series of overt or criminal actions with the ultimate purpose of amassing ill-gotten wealth.

But Desierto said public officials—in this case, former Finance Undersecretary Antonio Belicena and former Finance Deputy Executive Director Uldarico Andutan—could be charged with only one plunder case.

"They are the fulcrum of the cases. The Chingkoes and the Petron and Shell officials can't be charged separately. They are private persons and the number of counts against them depends on the number of counts that can be filed against Belicena and Andutan, which is only one."

"It is in such piecemeal filing that, once the charges reach the court, double jeopardy can set in with an acquittal in one." Desierto said. "If there were 12 separate plunder cases, Belicena, Andutan, the Chingkoes, et al. would simply choose the weakest case. Once acquitted in the weakest case, they can already invoke double jeopardy in the 11 other stronger cases.

"Moreno did not see this configuration. Unfortunately for the scam perpetrators, the Ombudsman is not the ignoramus that Moreno is."

Desierto stressed that the Task Force had filed only one case thus far, involving the Chingkoes' Diamond Knitting company. "The task force promised to file 12 cases but submitted only one case. Naturally, the preliminary investigation will focus on this single case at this point," he said.

On the issue that he had recently met with Petron and Shell officials, Desierto reserved his choicest words. Moreno's speculation that "arrangements may have been made or money may have changed hands" in just such a meeting is "a lot of bull dung."

Desierto said he had "never ever" met with any oil official, and challenged Moreno anew to repeat his allegation outside the halls of Congress so he can file the appropriate criminal charges.

Vital witness

On the sixth issue, that the Ombudsman had failed to protect the identity of a vital witness in the scam, Desierto said: "The confidentiality of documentary evidence and witnesses is only at the fact-finding stage. Everything is transparent once preliminary investigation has commenced."

Desierto said that based on the Supreme Court's ruling in Torralba vs Sandiganbayan, all relevant evidence and testimonies (including the names of witnesses) must be fully disclosed to the respondents.

"The testimony of the secret witness is the only evidence on an integral part of the modus operandi employed in the scam. Thus, she has to come out on preliminary investigation to ensure indictment. If harassed, the witness should simply be placed under the Witness Protection Program," he said.

Desierto repeated his accusation that Moreno was a "congenial liar (who is) deceiving the public by distorting facts and bastardizing the impeachment process."

The Chingkoes are accused of securing almost half, or some P2.5 billion, of the P5.3 billion in tax credit certificates acquired illegally in connivance with former finance officials during the Ramos administration.

TCCs are refund repayments made by the government on the duties and taxes paid by export firms. The export firms use TCCs to pay their taxes in importing raw materials.

De Venecia endorses 2nd impeach rap vs Ani

By Christine Avendaño

SPEAKER Jose de Venecia yesterday endorsed the second impeachment complaint filed against Ombudsman Aniano Desierto—despite the fact that the House may not have enough time to act on it.

Congress is expected to vote in plenary session today on the fate of the first complaint filed against Desierto, thus barring the House from initiating any other impeachment case against the same official for the next 12 months.

De Venecia told a news briefing that while under the rules he has 10 session days to transmit the new complaint to the House rules committee, so that it could then refer the matter to the House committee on justice, he said he decided to do it a day after the complaint reached his office. He said he was merely doing his "constitutional duty" to transmit the complaint and that it was up to the House justice committee "to decide how they intend to proceed with this."

Asked whether the House leadership would delay action on the first impeachment complaint to give the second the chance to be heard, House Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II said that the House was scheduled to take up the first impeachment complaint, which has already been reported out by the House committee on justice, today.

"If there are no interpellations on the report, then we will be able to vote (today)," Gonzales said.

Misamis Oriental Rep. Oscar Moreno, who endorsed the first impeachment complaint and filed the second, said he would question the House justice committee's report.

Moreno has filed a dissenting opinion to the report, questioning the manner by which the body handled the impeachment complaint.

"I appeal to the House leadership and to my colleagues not to allow a technicality to foreclose the right of the people to seek redress for the Ombudscam," he added.

In Moreno's dissenting opinion, he said that the committee "sent a very strong signal to ordinary citizens that it does not pay to tell on high government officials because there will always be government officials who will defend them at the expense of truth and justice."

In sum, Moreno said:

- The committee report was "illegal" and "null and void" because when the body met to approve it last Jan.16, it did so without the majority vote of all the members.
- The committee report did not reflect the deliberations of the committee and the reasons and justifications cited by its members when it dismissed the complaint for insufficiency in substance.
- The grounds relied upon by the committee as cited in the report were without factual and legal basis.
- The report contains inaccurate and incomplete assertions, false representations and statements not supported by the complaint and evidence, but which manifestly favor the respondent.

Lawyer Ernesto Francisco, who filed the first complaint and joined in the filing of the second, said he was still "hopeful" that Congress would overturn the findings of the House justice committee.

Francisco also expressed hope that the Speaker "is not doing a Pontius Pilate for a second time."

"It may be recalled that was exactly what he did—he moved to refer the first impeachment complaint to the rules committee which referred it to the justice committee—and that's where it was killed," Francisco said in a phone interview.

Minority bloc

But even as the fate of the two impeachment complaints against Desierto come to a head today, the House minority has moved to reopen the investigation of the tax credit scam.

The 19-member House minority, along with Makati City Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr., filed House Resolution No. 391 "requiring the House of Representatives, in the exercise of its oversight functions and in order to consider possible remedial legislation, to investigate, through the appropriate committee or committees, the tax credit scam, particularly the progress of the investigations conducted by Task Force 156 and of the prosecution of cases by the Office of the Ombudsman."

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Gender-neutral American Bible published soon

From page A1

(TNIV), will be gender-accurate and will use less outdated terms. It differs by a mere 7 percent from its predecessor, the NIV.

Examples of some changes in the updated version: "children of God" is used instead of "sons of God," "brothers and sisters" in lieu of "brothers," and "a person is justified by faith" instead of "a man is justified by faith."

But according to the IBS, "the TNIV is not merely a gender-accurate edition of the NIV." In fact, 70 percent of the changes in the newer version do not relate to gender.

Also, terms referring to God and Jesus Christ have not been altered.

'Mary is pregnant'

However, the TNIV will say that Mary is "pregnant," rather than "with child,"—an archaic turn of phrase IBS scholars thought would not resonate with younger readers.

Larry Lincoln, a spokesperson for IBS, was quick to dismiss any suggestion that IBS scholars had tinkered with the meaning of the Bible.

He insisted that the scholars had merely updated the English translation to make it more intelligible to a modern audience.

"Gender-neutral means so many negative things," said Lincoln, insisting that IBS Greek and Hebrew scholars had merely "updated the language without altering the meaning."

"There is another generation of people today who do not see the Bible as relevant because they don't understand the language," said Lincoln.

"We want to reach that generation."

"We firmly believe that to effect positive change in our world, we must communicate with today's generation in the English that they are being taught and that they speak," said IBS president Peter Bradley.

But changes to gender references have upset more conservative elements of the southern Baptist congregation that see the roles of the sexes as "complimentary," but not necessarily the same.

Aimed at Protestants

The New Testament portion of the TNIV is due out in April, with the full Bible expected in 2005. The updated version will be sold alongside the NIV, which has sold more than 150 million copies worldwide since 1978.

Like the 1978 Bible, the new version is aimed at Protestants and will not appear in an edition with the extra biblical books recognized by Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches.

The major US sales competitor for the NIV has been the venerable King James Version. But these international versions will now also have to compete with two evangelical translations that appeared last year:

- "English Standard Version" from Crossway, a slight update of the 1952 Revised Standard Version that makes modest use of gender-free terminology.
- "Holman Christian Standard Bible" from the Southern Baptist book house Broadman & Holman, which rejects gender-neutral wording.

All or part of the Bible is currently available in some 70 English translations. ***Reports from AP, AFP***

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Gov't lost ₱1.8B in bond scam, probers told

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE GOVERNMENT lost P1.8 billion to a non-government organization chaired by the sister of Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho and other "conspirators" from government agencies, as well as the Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. which gained from the transaction without shelling out a single centavo.

This came out during yesterday's hearing of the Senate committee on finance which was looking into the government's borrowing process, specifically the auctions by the Bureau of Treasury for the P10 billion worth of zero coupon bonds, also called "Poverty Eradication and Alleviation Certificates or PEACE bonds."

Marissa Camacho-Reyes, chairperson of CODE-NGO, admitted to having used RCBC as an underwriter to bid for the PEACE bonds which will mature in 10 years. The bonds were later sold at a discount by RCBC to a ready market.

The government was able to get P10 billion proceeds from the auction but will have to pay some P35 billion upon maturity of the bonds.

P1.4-B spread

The whole amount of the bonds was reportedly awarded to RCBC at an interest rate of 12.75 percent when there were other dealers which offered an interest rate of 11.5 percent.

Val Bagatsing, an official of RCBC Capital, admitted that the company had valued the PEACE bonds at 11 percent interest rate as early as March last year.

The scheme created a spread of some P1.38 billion in endowment fund for RCBC's client, CODE-NGO, representing the interest differential from the bided interest and the interest at which it resold the bonds.

On the other hand, RCBC benefited P300 million from the transaction, while the financial advisers of CODE-NGO got P100 million.

Officials of CODE-NGO, an umbrella group of non-government organizations that had played a key role in Edsa II, said they had conceptualized the idea behind the government issue of the PEACE bonds.

Danilo Songco, CODE-NGO national coordinator, admitted that CODE-NGO did not put in any money to acquire their P1.4 billion windfall.

Cesar Mayo, chair and chief executive officer of Capex Inc., one of CODE-NGO's financial advisers in the deal, told the committee that getting money for the CODE-NGO without spending a single centavo was the "real idea" behind the PEACE bonds concept.

The PEACE bonds concept was described by Reyes as a "win-win" formula for all the parties involved in the deal, including the government because the proceeds from the bond issue would be used for poverty-eradication projects.

But Reyes was quickly rebutted by Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta, author of the Senate resolution which was the subject of the inquiry, who said that it was just a "win-win" for CODE-NGO, not for the government.

"Win-win" for NGO

"It was a win (for them) because they raked in P1.4 billion without any investment save for saliva and connection. In other words, *laway at koneksyon lang ang puhunan nila,*" Oreta said.

"They won the second time around because they invested the money they had earned without a sweat, partly in government bonds. Meaning, they fried government in its own lard."

Oreta explained that the issuance of a PEACE bond for the benefit of a private institution was questionable and the award of the P10 billion peace bonds to a dealer who is not the lowest bidder in terms of interest rate were both highly suspicious and contrary to government borrowing and bidding policies.

She said the situation was clearly one wherein the government issued bonds for the benefit of a private institution but would have to pay some P35 billion out of taxpayers' money from maturity of the bonds.

This, Oreta said, clearly violated the Constitution wherein no money shall be paid out of the Treasury except pursuant to appropriations made by law through Congress.

Sen. John Osmeña, committee chair, said that RCBC could be guilty of insider trading when it admitted having advanced information on the real value of the bonds which was not made known to other government securities dealers.

"We have to understand that in financial transactions like this, the higher the interest rate, the more advantageous to the fellow who will buy the bonds," Osmeña told a press conference after the hearing.

What turf war?

By Dona Pazzibugan
and Juliet Labog-Javellana

MALACAÑANG won't hear of any talk of a "turf war" between Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona, Jr. and the presidential adviser on international competitiveness, Roberto Romulo.

Press Secretary Noel Cabrera said President Macapagal-Arroyo has denied that there was a rift between the two.

"What is there to settle if there is no turf war?" Cabrera answered when asked if the President had stepped into the controversy.

"If there is such talk, maybe the President would only tell them, don't listen to that and just continue your work," Cabrera added.

Last week, presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao denied that Romulo, who was the foreign secretary of former President Fidel Ramos, was running the foreign affairs department.

He said Romulo did not even attend Cabinet meetings.

Tiglao also denied there was a "policy rift" between Ms Macapagal and Guingona over the deployment of United States troops in Basilan.

In the House of Representatives, a key Lakas ally of Guingona left no doubt that there was indeed a feud, accusing Romulo of "creating confusion in the DFA."

Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez warned Romulo to "keep his hands off" the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Gonzalez said Romulo's alleged meddling would make him liable for usurpation of public authority, or Article 177 of the Revised Penal Code which is punishable with 2 to 10 years imprisonment.

The President must also do her part by placing a "demarcation line" between the jobs of Guingona and Romulo.

He said the President need not fire Romulo as adviser but she should ask him not to meddle in the DFA.

"Mr. Romulo should cease and desist from playing foreign affairs secretary and stop people from thinking he has such a clout with the administration, in order to lessen tension between Malacañang and the Vice President and stop all kinds of wild speculations which benefit not the nation but only the detractors," Gonzalez said in a statement. ***With a report from Gerald Lacuarta***

Graft watchdog keeps eye on DOTC

TRANSPORTATION Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez has sought the assistance of an anti-graft and anti-crime watchdog to ferret out corruption in the Department of Transportation and Communications.

He said the DOTC and Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC) are joining hands to share information, particularly on irregularities in the department.

Alvarez and VACC chair Dante Jimenez signed on Monday a memorandum of agreement to stamp out corruption in the department.

"The days of the crooks at the DOTC and its agencies are numbered," Alvarez declared in a press statement.

"With regard to graft and corruption, we will stick to a one-strike-you're-out policy. There will be no reprieve on grafters, mulcters, *kotong* guys and all sorts of undesirable elements within the DOTC."

Alvarez hailed the joint effort as a milestone in the government's war against graft and corruption. The VACC is an accredited corruption prevention unit of the Office of the Ombudsman.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, January 30, 2002
3rd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: **2 S 7:14-17**
Gospel: **Mk 4:1-20**

Jesus began to teach by the lake, but such a large crowd gathered about him that he got into a boat and sat in it on the lake while the crowd stood on the shore. He taught them many things through stories or parables. In his teaching he said, "Listen! The sower went out to sow. As he sowed, some of the seed fell along a path and the birds came and ate it up. Some of the seed fell on rocky ground where it had little soil; it sprang up immediately because it had no depth; but when the sun rose and burned it, it withered because it had no roots. Other seed fell among thornbushes and the thorns grew and choked it, so it didn't produce any grain. But some seed fell on good soil, grew and increased and yielded grain; some produced thirty times as much, others sixty and others one hundred times as much." And Jesus added, "Listen then, if you have ears."

When the crowd went away, some who were around him with the Twelve asked about the parables.

He answered them, "The mystery of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But for those outside, everything comes in parables, so that the more they see, they don't perceive; the more they hear, they don't understand; otherwise they would be converted and pardoned."

Jesus said to them, "Don't you understand this parable? How then will you understand any of the parables?

What the sower is sowing is the word. Those along the path where the seed fell are people who hear the word, but as soon as they do, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them.

Other people receive the word like rocky ground. As soon as they hear the word, they accept it with joy, but they have no roots so it lasts only a little while. No sooner does trouble or persecution come because of the word, than they fall.

Others receive the seed as among thorns. After they hear the word, they are caught up in the worries of this life, false hopes of riches and other desires. All these come in and choke the word so that finally it produces nothing.

And there are others who receive the word as good soil. They hear the word, take it to heart and produce: some thirty, some sixty and some one hundred times as much."

Commentary

We often wonder why we are experiencing so little progress in our Christian life, in the way we deal with others; why in Christian societies like ours there is still so much corruption and so little justice, so much violence and so little peace! The Gospel we received is the good seed that could transform our lives and our society, but its dynamism and power is mediated by human factors. How we receive God's word is of extreme importance. Perhaps we are too superficial, or we still walk through life with stony hearts. Probably our thoughts and feelings are scattered in a variety of concerns that leave little room for the word of God in our day's work. Let's check our attitudes, our openness to God; deep in us there is plenty of good soil to make the word of God bear fruit.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (EVIDENCE)—Contradiction between affidavit and testimony—The contradiction between the affidavit and the testimony of a witness may be explained by the fact that an affidavit will not always disclose all the facts and will oftentimes and without design incorrectly describe, without the deponent detecting it, some of the occurrences narrated. As an affidavit is taken *ex-parte*, it is always incomplete and often inaccurate, sometimes from partial suggestions, and sometimes from want of suggestions and inquiries, without the aid of which the witness may be unable to recall the connected collateral circumstances necessary for the correction of the first suggestion of his memory and for his accurate recollection of all that belongs to the subject. It has been thus held that affidavits are generally subordinated in importance to open court declarations because the former are often executed when the affiant's mental faculties are not in such a state as to afford him a fair opportunity of narrating in full the incident which has transpired. Moreover, affidavits are not complete reproductions of what the declarant has in mind because they are generally prepared by the administering officer and the affiant simply signs them after the same have been read to him. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Mendoza, Second Division, Sarabia v. People, G.R. No. 142024, July 20, 2001]

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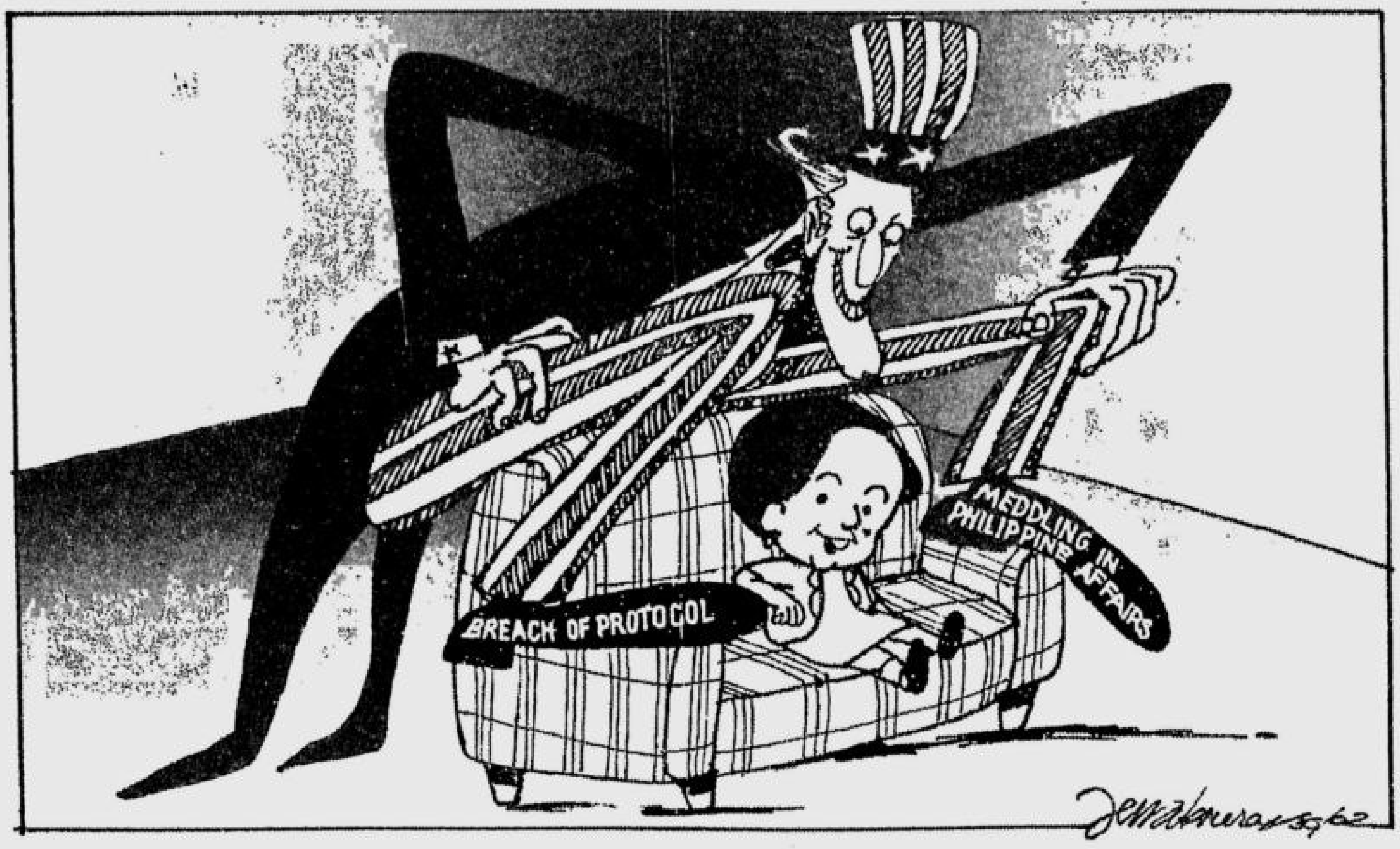


Three is enough

EDITORIAL

TO GET the infernal traffic in the metropolis moving a little bit faster, the Metro Manila Development Authority and the Land Transportation Office have agreed to impose stiffer sanctions on traffic violators. Under the new policy, the LTO will revoke the license of drivers caught violating traffic rules after the third offense. The offending drivers can resume driving only after a year and after undergoing seminars on traffic rules, according to MMDA Chair Benjamin Abalos. Transportation companies whose drivers are found to be habitual traffic violators will also be penalized by having their franchises revoked or canceled. "This is one way we can discipline our drivers and teach them to observe traffic rules and regulations," Abalos said.

The mayors of Metro Manila, however, are telling Abalos not to go too fast with the plan. Their spokesperson, Pasay Mayor Peewee Trinidad, said that while the plan was "worth considering," it still needed some careful study. "We are not sure if it would solve the problem," he said.

Why not? Studies done on Manila's traffic, like the one made by the Japan International Cooperation Agency, have identified bad driving habits and poor enforcement of traffic rules as two of the major reasons vehicular traffic moves so slowly (the third is poorly coordinated infrastructure projects). Any motorist will give the same answer if asked. And even Trinidad concedes that "the lack of discipline among drivers is really the problem." But he suggests that the problem be addressed at its root: the issuance of licenses to people who don't even know the rules.

Trinidad has a point. Part of the problem is that the LTO issues licenses to anyone who has the money to pay for a license. Written tests are administered not to determine an applicant's knowledge of traffic rules but simply to comply with the requirement. And from the way the practical test is given, it's quite possible for someone sitting behind the wheel for the first time in his life to qualify for a license. In other words, there is really a need for the LTO to tighten its licensing system so that only those who are qualified to drive will have a license.

But while it would screen out those who are not fit to drive, Trinidad's suggestion doesn't address the more immediate problem of how to make those who already have licenses observe the rules. Of course, it is good politics to keep the drivers, especially those who drive public utility vehicles, and their families on one's side. The Pinagkaisang Samahan ng mga Tsuper at Opereyetor Nationwide alone boasts of 130,000 members all over the country, and it is threatening to launch a nationwide strike if the plan to ground erring drivers is carried out. Its president, Medardo de Roda, said that "the government has no right to take away the jobs of thousands of drivers."

But who is taking away anybody's job? If the drivers value their jobs they should strive to keep it by following the rules. Why should Piston or the mayor of Metro Manila shield drivers who have the habit of breaking traffic regulations? Everyone has to earn a living, but drivers of public buses, jeepneys or taxis shouldn't do so at the expense of the safety and convenience of others.

As it is, the frequently gridlocked traffic in the nation's urban centers is costing us plenty. The Jica study placed at P40 billion yearly the direct losses from the traffic problem, meaning losses due to wasted gasoline, lost working hours and salaries paid to traffic enforcers. Even bigger are the opportunity costs, meaning business opportunities lost, business delayed and investments foregone which Jica placed at P100 billion a year. Why should the nation throw away P140 billion just so people who have no business driving in the first place can earn a living?

In most other countries, frequent violation of traffic regulations is a reason for the cancellation of a driver's license. Why should we be an exception when our drivers are well known for violating every rule in the book? Three violations should be enough to earn a revocation of a license, as the MMDA is proposing. Unless they have a better idea, Trinidad and the other mayors should just shut up.

Clearing confusion on some health questions

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

IS coconut cooking oil rich or poor in cholesterol?

Does *ampalaya* thin blood?

Does garlic lower blood pressure?

Is it advisable to take herbal medicines?

Does avocado have a high cholesterol content?

These and other similar questions, of which there are no definite answers from the Department of Health, the Food and Drug Administration, or health and medical associations, confuse the layman. Worse, different doctors have different opinions. Advertising confuses even more. The good thing about attending the health forum of the Philippine College of Physicians is that you are able to clarify at least some of the confusion. Here are some answers to the above questions:

1. Coconut cooking oil. It is a vegetable oil and the advertising and the labels on its cans say "no cholesterol." This is true; it is not false advertising. But it is misleading.

The coconut oil in the can really has no cholesterol. But that is not the whole story, said Dr. Rody Sy, who spoke on atherosclerosis, a disease characterized by hardening of the arteries caused in part by high cholesterol levels in the blood, among other risk factors. Unfortunately, that coconut oil, when ingested in the body, is processed by the liver that turns out the cholesterol. It is the liver that manufactures cholesterol, Dr. Sy explained, and uses that originally cholesterol-free coconut oil as material to manufacture the cholesterol.

This is the prevalent opinion in Western countries, he said, (that is why the demand for coconut oil in the world has declined), but there is no definitive ruling by any world body yet. Neither is the DOH, FDA, Philippine Heart Association or any other medical group conducting any study.

So what do we do? Dr. Sy concedes that coconut milk (*gata*) adds flavor to some dishes and coconut oil adds shelf life to some foods, but prudence is the better part of valor, and prudence dictates that we consume coconut oil in moderation. And the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), instead of continuing to sit on its ass and fatten on the coco levy, better look for other uses for coconut oil and coconut byproducts just in case it is confirmed that coconut oil is bad for the health.

By the way, reusing cooking oil, saturated or unsaturated, is bad because the heating and reheating do something to it that raises its cholesterol level. Fried potato strips, better known as French fries, is fried in beef fat which is used over and over. The fact that it is beef fat, reheated many times, give us a double whammy. Those French fries are dripping with cholesterol and calories.

2. *Ampalaya*, either in vegetable or pill form, does not thin or thicken blood—although I've heard some doctors say otherwise. Neither does it lower blood pressure. It is, however, good for diabetics, according to Dr. Sy, although I've also heard other doctors say otherwise.

3. Garlic does help lower blood pressure, concedes Dr. Sy. However, it can raise the blood pressure of your partner who smells it in your breath.

4. Herbal medicines: We have seen so many advertisements and even personal endorsements of herbal medicines—in tea, pill, tablet, seeds or other forms. Some individuals swear that they have been "cured" by herbal medicine and advise friends to take it.

Many herbs and other plants are really medicinal. In fact, many of the medicines manufactured by pharmaceutical companies were taken from plants. But there is a difference between taking some properties of some plants to cure certain diseases, and taking a tea boiled from the leaves or roots of that plant. That tea may indeed cure certain diseases. But that same tea may have other elements that may be toxic to you. Mahogany seeds, for example, was touted for sometime to be a cure for some diseases until it was discovered that it was toxic and killed some persons.

Besides, different diseases have similar symptoms. And just because a herbal tea "cured" a person's illness does not mean it will cure another person with similar symptoms. So just because a well-meaning friend swears that a certain herbal medicine "cured" him, or advertisements cite endorsements by well-known people, it does not mean you should take it, too. The safe thing is to consult your doctor.

5. Avocado. It is a fruit but it is the only fruit that is high in fat. That means it is bad for you if you're trying to lose weight. However, that fat is the "good cholesterol" which you should have more of because it helps lower the level of "bad cholesterol." So in general, avocado is good for you cholesterol-wise, besides being rich in vitamin A. What makes it bad is when you mix full-cream milk and sugar with it. So use nonfat milk and a sugar substitute. And exercise to burn the calories.

Weakest link

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

OSCAR Moreno and the INQUIRER have only confirmed what everyone has known all along. The Ombudsman is not part of the cure, he is part of the disease. Like this country's law enforcers, who are the first to break the law, Aniano Desierto, presumed scourge of corruption, is the first to coddle it.

That has been patent for some time now, and the only wonder is that nothing has been done about it. Well, something could have been, last December, when Ernesto Francisco, a most earnest lawyer, filed an impeachment charge against him in Congress. He had proof, Francisco said, that Desierto accepted a bribe from Luke Roxas in exchange for turning a blind eye on a tax scam involving his bank. But the House justice committee—truly, justice is a much-abused word in this country—shot it down by a vote of 35 to 5. The 35, observers swore, were winking at each other and patting themselves at the back while at it.

Well, I did say that if they thought they could use Christmas to hide their deed—people were too festive to bother about so unfestive a thing as epic wrongdoing—they were dead wrong. There was always the devil, or a massive Christmas hangover, to pay afterward.

Comes now Oscar Moreno. Moreno of course was one of those who prosecuted Erap during the impeachment trial, showing up Desierto's attempts to strike a martyr's pose by saying it was Erap's camp that was doing a demolition job on him. Moreno has a far more complex, and serious, charge, which is that Desierto has been deliberately bungling the cases against people charged with corruption. A case in point is the Chingkoe group of companies, which has been charged with selling tax exemptions for exporters to companies that have nothing to do with trade. The couple who own it, Faustino and Gloria Chingkoe, has skimmed P5.3 billion off government in collectible taxes.

Or so if Desierto's own graft investigators are to be believed. Which brings us to Desierto's complicity, or duplicity, here. The initial report by graft investigator Elena Barcenal, dated September last year, names the Chingkoes as the main culprits in the scam. One month later, they become last in the list of respondents in a graft charge prepared by Maria Elena Roxas. A couple of months later, in December, the Chingkoe couple leave for Canada. And this month, the Ombudsman issues a subpoena against everyone **except** the Chingkoe couple. The Case of the Disappearing Suspects, the INQUIRER calls it. It will not appear in Sherlock Holmes' casebook. He would be embarrassed to death to use his formidable deductive powers to solve so elementary a mystery.

If anyone still needs convincing that Desierto will turn government's moral map into a howling desert, this one should do it. It should explain why despite the Ombudsman's seemingly furious efforts to run after crooks—Desierto makes it a point to look extremely busy every time—he has barely caught one. It's sound and fury signifying nothing. Francisco himself has examined the 145 tax credit cases filed by Desierto against sundry individuals and companies in the course of his term and has found an uncanny pattern there. Namely, a process that has built-in legal defects, guaranteeing failure. In one instance, in August last year, out of sheer exasperation the Sandiganbayan threw out 62 of the 145 cases involving 50 people because of the Ombudsman's failure to submit the results of his office's reinvestigations. That is one fierce object lesson in how not to do *ombuds*.

Curiously also, despite the sums involved being more than P50 million and Senate injunctions, Desierto has repeatedly downgraded the cases from plunder to mere graft and estafa. Contrary to popular belief, it doesn't take a thief to catch a thief. It takes a thief only to know one. It takes an honest man to know **and** catch a thief.

Desierto is the weakest link in this country's efforts to restore a semblance of decency in government—robust health is almost unreasonable to aspire for—but there too is the rub. He is the weakest link in the fight against corruption, but that, paradoxically, is his strongest claim to his position. The paradox is easy enough to explain, and may be gleaned from the decision of the House justice committee to junk the impeachment case against him gleefully. Desierto is the universal choice for Ombudsman by government officials for the very reason that he is blind, deaf and dumb to corruption.

His support crosses party lines. The current government wants him. The possibility he will find anything wrong with the activities of the First Gentleman is next to nil. The Erap camp wants him, his noises notwithstanding. They are certain he does not have the talent or credibility—assuming he has the will—to put the former president behind bars. The congressmen, executive officials and judges want him: They have nothing to lose with him at the investigating end, other perhaps than a small part of their loot.

This is a case clearly that demands public intervention to push forward. The case isn't closed. Francisco and Moreno can still overturn the justice committee decision in a plenary session of Congress—but that means epic public outrage every step of the way. It was after all House Speaker Jose de Venecia's lieutenants in the committee who gave unto Desierto as Desierto gives unto them. Desierto has repeatedly dared people who have expressed a dim view of his integrity to try and impeach him. It's time we took him up on it. It shouldn't matter that he will be resigning by the end of the year. Unless we mean to impart another lesson that crime does pay, and pays well—or that it is subject to *balato*, or negotiation, upon retirement.

Take it from Edu Manzano, there is only one thing to say to the weakest link. It is a peremptory: Goodbye.

* * *

Comments are welcome at dequiros@vasia.com

In the context of new realities

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronilla

THE ISSUES have now been joined following the opinion of Justice Secretary Hernando Perez that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is authorized to give the go-ahead for the joint RP-US military exercises "Balikatan 02-1" based on her plenary powers as the "architect" of foreign policy.

Perez held that the exercises are constitutional and within the legal framework of the Mutual Defense Treaty and the 1999 Visiting Forces Agreement. The opponents of the exercises argue that they contravene Article 18, Section 25 of the Constitution saying that after the expiration of the leases on the RP-US military bases agreement, "foreign military bases, troops, or facilities shall not be allowed except under a treaty duly concurred in by the Senate..." They also claim the administration cut corners on the procedures concerning approval of the exercises.

These two contending views have now come to a head. The government has put forward a doctrine which it claims is consistent with the Constitution, and there is no way it will back off from the exercises.

The point to bear in mind is that the context in which the exercises are held is the new reality of the security threat facing the Philippines after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States and the US-led war on terrorism behind which the Macapagal administration has aligned. When the VFA, which spells out the rules under which the exercises would be held, was being debated, the perceived threat was Chinese territorial encroachment in the South China Sea. In the 1950s up until the collapse of communism in 1989, the joint exercises under the MDT were framed with perceived threats from Chinese and Vietnamese communism.

This only goes to show that threats to our national security are determined by volatile international developments, and that constitutional provisions concerning sovereignty and security have to be interpreted in the light of dynamic—not static—events. If the Macapagal foreign policy and security response to the menace of international terrorism, to which the Abu Sayyaf has been linked by evidence with al-Qaida, were interpreted in the contexts of the 1950s-1980s (during the Cold War) and of the 1990s, then the Constitution would indeed be an inflexible document tying the hands of the government from responding to a new threat—.i.e., the terrorist network.

Underlying this constitutional and security debate is the question of whether the deployment of American troops in Basilan for joint exercises in a conflict zane impairs national sovereignty. There is no question that the Armed Forces of the Philippines does not have the sophisticated weapons and facilities to fight the Abu Sayyaf successfully. Our soldiers need training in new weaponry and upgrading of skills in combat. There's little doubt that training assistance will enhance their capacity to fight the Abu Sayyaf, as well as other festering rebellions in the country.

If we come down to the question of sovereignty, the nationalists are passionately opposed against the exercises, but their context is the threats which faced the republic during the Cold War. If we ask ourselves whether in the conflict with the Abu Sayyaf or even other insurgencies we exercise sovereignty in our land, the honest answer is that the government is not in control of Abu Sayyaf territory, and can't impose its will and authority over this area.

The purpose of the exercises is to strengthen the hand of the AFP in fighting not only the Abu Sayyaf but also other insurgencies which are now defying the authority of the Philippine state and denying control to the government of rebel territories. The militants ignore the fact that we have lost sovereignty in rebel territories, where the Philippine state has only a nominal presence.

If we take a larger view and not allow ourselves to be blinkered by narrow interpretations of the Constitution and of sovereignty, the strategic aim of the exercises is to give the AFP and the government the credible capacity to crush insurgencies and regain effective control of rebel territories. The policy matrix of this bid to empower the government to impose its will and authority on every inch of the national territory is the policy of alignment in the international war on terrorist networks.

It is claimed the deployment will curtail sovereignty. The claim is based on the hypothetical speculation that the exercises would pave the way for a more permanent military presence.

After the defeat of Japan in 1945, Ho Chi Minh faced the dilemma of whether his nationalist forces would fight the Chinese (the Kuomintang) who had occupied part of Vietnam, or the French, who were returning to Indo-China. He decided on the priority of expelling the Chinese, Vietnam's historic enemy. He told his biographer, Jean Lacouture, "I would rather have French s...t than Chinese s...t." After the Chinese were expelled, he turned Vietnamese nationalism against the French.

Raised eyebrows

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

ON OCT. 17 last year, this paper's business section carried a story on how the government was able to raise P10 billion from the sale of P35 billion-worth of "zero coupon bonds." Reportedly "pleased" with the results was National Treasurer Sergio Edeza, who was quoted as saying that apparently "the market is very liquid" and that there was "a lot of interest in this issue. It was four times over-subscribed."

The "zeroes" sold in this auction have since been more popularly, and controversially, known as the "PEACe Bonds," or Poverty Eradication and Alleviation Certificates Bonds.

Judging from Edeza's reaction, it would seem that the government was well pleased with the outcome of the sale. And since Edeza has yet to comment on the doubts raised on whether the government "lost" in the transaction, we can only presume that he and the Bureau of Treasury are still pleased.

The auction of the PEACe Bonds, the first time 10-year zero-coupon bonds were offered in the country (although they are quite common elsewhere), attracted P137.08 billion in bids, indicating great interest in future sales of such instruments. Since no peep of protest was heard from any of the losing bidders, we can presume they believed in the integrity of the process and result.

If both seller and buyers (even the losing ones) are happy about the PEACe Bonds sale, why is it so controversial? Judging from much of the media coverage, it would seem that the PEACe Bonds are raising eyebrows only because an NGO—or rather a national "network of networks" of NGOs—known as Code-NGO, was able to raise a profit of P1.4 billion from it. This is because Code-NGO's agent, the winning bidder RCBC, turned around and sold the zeroes at a higher price in the secondary market. The P1.4 billion that went to Code-NGO represents the difference between the previously agreed price that RCBC would buy the zeroes from Code-NGO, and the price it sold the bonds.

* * *

HOW could Code-NGO be so "lucky"?

If we are to believe the many theories, it could only be because: (1) Code-NGO chair Marissa Camacho-Reyes is the sister of Finance Secretary Isidro Camacho; (2) Code-NGO national coordinator Dan Songco sits on the board of the Development Bank of the Philippines; (3) Code-NGO acted as the secretariat of Kompil II, the multi-sectoral alliance that was instrumental in organizing popular anti-Erap sentiment and activities, and thus used its "power" and "influence" with the Macapagal administration to gain privileges and access to government agencies whose approval was necessary to make the "zeroes" auction fly. This last activity another non-government group has described as "impermissible rent-seeking."

Others far more qualified than this columnist, "Mareng Winnie" Monsod, for one, have gone over the PEACe Bonds transaction, and when an esteemed economist like her says she found nothing wrong with it, I'm willing to take her at her word.

But no one has, so far, stated baldly that the auction and sale of the PEACe Bonds was "illegal," although a Senate inquiry is in the offing. The worst that I have heard and read so far is that it was "unethical," if not "immoral," that the main actors should have acted with greater *"delicadeza,"* if not a more acute sense of the possible political fall-out, and that they should have informed the rest of the NGO community about their fund-raising scheme.

* * *

THE LAST point I frankly found incredible when I read it in the position paper of the Action for Economic Reform. I also wear an "NGO hat" when I am not writing a column, and never in the 20 years that I've been in NGO work have I heard of any such requirement. If anything, NGOs keep their dealings with their funders as secret as possible.

As I wrote yesterday, development NGOs have been facing a financing squeeze for quite some time now. If anything, the courtship of possible funders is even more frenzied and competitive. I have yet to hear of an NGO announcing to the public that they are in negotiations with a funder, and what the terms are.

Should Code-NGO have allowed other groups or networks to take a cut of the potential profit? Well, that is in fact what they are doing. The P1.4-billion endowment fund is now administered by a separate entity, the PEACE Foundation. The foundation is now in the process of screening proposals for poverty alleviation projects, even from organizations that do not belong to Code-NGO, and in places where Code-NGO is not present.

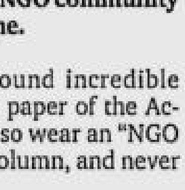
* * *

ON THE MATTER of Marissa Camacho Reyes' affinity to the finance secretary, the first presentation before a government official to request for the issuance of "zeroes" was done on March 3, 2001, when the finance secretary was (now executive secretary) Bert Romulo. Isidro Camacho assumed the finance portfolio only in June, and by then negotiations had proceeded apace and most requirements had been met.

"I did consider resigning from Code-NGO," says Marissa, "but I asked myself: Should I sacrifice the interests of my sector just to make sure my brother is confirmed?" Marissa says she, Dan and Code-NGO's board were quite aware of the potential fall-out, but thought "it would be more transparent" if they stayed put since they were not guilty of any impropriety.

Marissa has been involved in NGO work (through the Philippine Center for Population and Development and the Association of Foundations) for 25 years, "long before my brother even entertained the idea of joining government." ***(More tomorrow)***

Dating archeological finds



LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

LAST Monday the Oriental Ceramic Society of the Philippines sponsored a lecture by Peter Y.K. Lam, director of the Art Gallery at the Chinese University of Hongkong, on "The Historical background and Dating Evidence for Shipwrecks in the Philippines: A Chinese View." The illustrated lecture was fascinating in the wake of the discovery of a shipwreck in Zambales last year that flooded Ermita antique shops with Chinese ceramics of the Ming period. The INQUIRER even gave it Page One prominence, helping the National Museum step in and preserve part of the archeological site and artifacts for further study.

At the height of the Zambales fever, many blue and white plates, saucers and bowls were up for grabs at rock bottom prices in Ermita shops. At one point, the authentic ceramics were cheaper than the modern reproductions sold at the National Museum! Before the National Museum moved in, collectors were in a feeding frenzy because the Zambales shipwreck yielded special forms and shapes of Ming ceramics like powder or brush boxes, water droppers in the shape of cuddling (coupling?) Mandarin ducks and crescent-shaped ewers. If these pieces were excavated on land, were without chips or cracks and had the original glaze intact, they could command many an Abu Sayyaf ransom in the auction houses of London and New York. The Zambales shipwreck was many things to different people: on one level, collectors appreciated the beauty of the pieces; on another level, archeologists saw it as a remnant of the pre-colonial past, and for others it was a quick way to earn cold cash. How to get people to see beyond their own interests was the challenge.

Reflecting on all the ceramics I saw in antique shops last year, I realized that the Philippines has pretty much exhausted all the land has to offer in terms of these treasures, thus archeological excavation (and looting) is largely done in the sea these days. Unlike ceramics dug up from the earth, most of those recovered from the sea may be intact but with a dull surface. Centuries of immersion in salt water, rocked by the waves, have taken their toll on the ceramics. Many pieces arrived in Manila encrusted with coral and covered with many forms of marine life.

After patient and careful cleaning, many of these ceramics have found their way into glass vitrines in the exclusive Makati villages. Some were bought in bulk by interior decorators to add character to so-called "lifestyle homes" featured in newspapers and glossy magazines. (I have actually seen Ming ceramics crowding coffee tables and used as candy dishes or even ashtrays in these "lifestyle homes.") Despite all that is lost to our history, Wilfredo Ronquillo and Eusebio Dizon of the National Museum archeology division, are still swamped with material. It will take some time to clean and classify the excavated pieces, and from all this we shall build yet another picture of our pre-colonial past.

Lam's lecture covered the historical context of these finds—the restriction and opening of Southeast Asian trade with China in the Ming period. What I found impressive was not Lam's library and archival work but how he compiled an impressive cross-referencing system to aid in the dating of recovered ceramics. After years of studying broken pieces of ceramics found in Hong Kong, Lam arranged his material in terms of decorative or symbolic motifs found on the ceramics, the style of painting, the style of potting, the style of firing, etc. When his comprehensive data file was complete, he then compared and correlated this with dated ceramics found in archeological sites in China resulting in a conclusive way to date the ceramic finds in the Philippines.

The main problem with collections of Oriental ceramics in the Philippines is that the objects did not come from an archeologically controlled site. Even the famous prewar collection of H. Otley Beyer was faulty because later scholars had no way of pinpointing exactly where the artifacts were excavated from. There was also no record of the other objects associated with the ceramics at the site. Unlike an archeologist who tries to recover every object in a site, carefully recording depth and stratification of the soil in relation to the objects, a pot hunter only collects the ceramics, beads and the gold, leaving other associated objects like bones and broken pieces behind. In China, the dating of ceramics is made more reliable due to systematic and controlled archeological excavation.

By comparing the design motifs and shapes of the ceramics found in the Philippines with the data in his file, Lam suggested a time frame for the various documented shipwrecks in the Philippines. His discussion was rather esoteric and if he did not have slides to show us (chevron bands, trefoils, ruyi-panels, kylins, cranes, Buddhist emblems etc.), everything would be lost on me. The result of this back-breaking, eye-straining and brain-draining work is that the following shipwrecks and their cargo can be dated: Pandanan c.1450; Busuanga, Jolo and Zambales c.1488-1505; San Diego c. 1600. Of course, there are other ways to date the shipwrecks like ship records, archival papers etc., but the ceramics are the first step in our journey of a thousand miles.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

Old habits never die

COMMENTARY

Belinda A. Aquino

HONOLULU—We thought we've effectively ended the US-Philippine "special relations" since the early 1990s when the Senate said No to extending the Military Bases Agreement. The US presence had gone on far too long and its termination was much overdue. But however late it was, we got a breathing spell from the oppressive relationship we had for nearly a century. We hoped the US military had gone for good. It had worn out its welcome several times over.

Wrong. Just a few years later, they were back again, this time under the auspices of a "Visiting Forces Agreement." They would only be "visiting," mind you, to participate in some military "exercises." This is just routine, folks, no combat troops involved.

And now, in the post-Taliban era, the US military again is flexing its renewed muscle in the Philippines. Again, no big deal, huh? Just "advising" and "training" Filipino troops in the fight against the Abu Sayyaf, folks, isn't that nice! And, oh, yes, additionally, to "modernize" the Philippine military!

The real danger is, if any one of these so-called "advisors" gets killed "defending" himself, the inevitable will happen. More "advisors" will be coming in full force.

Why is it that old habits, no matter how bad, are so hard to break? Shouldn't be too hard to answer. Power. They continue to have power over us. It's a relational concept, as we know. It takes two. When you confront power and you are powerless, you get demolished. It is not unlike a battered relationship in a manner of speaking.

The Great White Hope is back to protect us from a new enemy: terrorism. In the days of the Cold War, it was communism. A modern-day Edward Lansdale, foremost counterinsurgency expert in Southeast Asia who "advised" Magsaysay and Diem, has been reincarnated in the current war on terrorism. His name is Gen. Donald Wurster of the US Air Force stationed at Hickam Airbase in Hawaii. Hickam is part of CINCPAC (Commander in Chief of the Pacific) located in Camp Smith, sometimes known as the "Pentagon of the Pacific." Wurster and his Filipino military counterpart will be the "training directors" for more than 600 "special forces" and support personnel. And there are already 7,000 Filipino troops deployed in Abu Sayyaf territory. For heaven's sake, can anyone tell me how many Abus are there? Somebody said just a hundred?

Those of us who lived through the harrowing Vietnam era see a similar specter about escalation and incremental war, which may be unavoidable as the conflict gets deeper. Though the "isms" are different now, and terrorism is much more deadly to confront, good old Lansdale's counterinsurgency formula may still be applicable 50 years later. Stanley Karnow's book on Vietnam says that Lansdale's "advice" was always: "Just remember this, communist guerrillas hide among the people. If you win the people over to your side, the communist guerrillas have no place to hide. With no place to hide, you can find them. Then, as military men, fix them...finish them!" Eventually, the "advisors" were replaced by ground troops. Combat was just a matter of time.

How much do these "advisors" know of the Abu Sayyaf and its al-Qaida connections? Where did they get their "expert" knowledge on the Abu Sayyaf? Last night's Honolulu Star-Bulletin featured an article by Cox News Service reporter George Edmonson entitled "Abu Sayyaf Shrouded in Mystery." It ran a full-length interview with anthropologist Thomas McKenna, author of "Muslim Rulers and Rebels: Everyday Politics and Armed Separatism in the Southern Philippines." He is an SRI Consulting Business Intelligence consultant in Menlo Park, California. It's not known whether the US military is consulting with consultant McKenna, who has been studying the Mindanao separatist movement for 20 years. Parts of the interview with him are instructive:

"For the Philippines in general, there will be some nationalist sentiment that says, 'We don't want Americans here. They've got to get out.' Philippine Muslims, I think...will be a bit more nuanced: 'Well, let's wait and see what happens here. Gee, it might be better having American troops running after these guys than Philippine military troops.'" The context of McKenna's assessment is that, Philippine Muslims "consider themselves to still be essentially colonized by the Philippine government," and that "they want to separate."

It is advice like this by "experts" that might embolden the US military, even as McKenna himself cautions that the interior of Basilan and other islands is very heavily forested, very muddy and very hard to get around. And that if you don't know the territory, it's very hard to move around. He cites the example of Kamlon, who tied down the Philippine military for more than five years, and even then they didn't catch him. He surrendered.

So, before they get deeper and mired in Basilan mud, my advice to these "advisors" is, get out of there for your own good! The sooner the better. This may be just a lone voice in the rainforest, but heed it: you can't possibly win this war. Go get some reading done on Philippine Muslim history.

Writing from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Belinda A. Aquino is professor of Political Science and Asian Studies and director of the Center for Philippine Studies.

THEY SAID

Corruption of people power

"Where there is self-service, where there is only arrogance, where there is only pride and ambition, people power is bound to fail. It cannot even be called by such a name."

—Bishop Socrates Villegas said in his homily during a Mass commemorating the anniversary of the uprising that ousted President Joseph Estrada

A question of style

"It's the trait Filipinos are looking for. Even if you work well but if you are a person who is distant and cold, all of these are forgotten."

—Rep. Florencio Abad pointing out that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has performed well but her style of leadership was causing disenchantment in some sectors

Charisma

"Charisma cannot be contrived overnight by spin doctors. It took years and a series of crisis before charismatic leaders like Churchill, JFK and Thatcher exuded charisma."

—Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao saying it was too soon to judge the President's charisma, or lack of it as a leader

Help needed

"The enemy is knocking at our doors—beheading, bombing. Now we need help..."

—Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan, underscoring the benefits to the country of the RP-US Balikatan exercises

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Belated dissenting opinion

NOT to intrigue but in 2004 it would not be easy not to campaign and vote for Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide Jr., as president, should he be nominated and run. Personally writing the INQUIRER "thank you" (Letters, 1/24/02) and accepting all those awards and invitations in time-consuming events, with all he has to do in the Supreme Court, seem to indicate interest in 2004. I write as a fan of his but pushing harder might be Justices Reynato C. Puno and Artemio V. Panganiban, whose eyes are said to moisten and glisten when called "chief." Seriously, I am reminded of another dear friend, Chief Justice Marcelo B. Fernan, who went back to politics (and even Chief Justice Andres R. Narvasa, who never engaged in partisan politics). Some observers believe that Supreme Court justices ought not to be too *"sosyal"* and high profile. That remains my personal view, with all due respect.

I was fascinated that Davide should say the Supreme Court is a "passive agency." It took the initiative on Jan. 20, 2001 when its members even went to Edsa. Could anything be more activist and politically partisan than that? By swearing in Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Davide stripped Joseph Estrada in a few minutes of a mandate earned in 1998, without hearing him out (and therefore, the millions who had voted for him). Estrada was in the Palace then and would have been easy to notify but due process was not part of people power out to oust one fought by many of those who gleefully went to Edsa II last year. Estrada had not been heard in the House and Senate, either.

I wonder how it would have been had the Court called a hearing at noon that day, with its calmative effect, heard out both sides, and come out with a decision say by four or five that afternoon, in all probability against Estrada. Due process would have been observed and the legitimacy of succession would have been accepted by one and all. Last year, the Court supported people power which no one seems to want to happen again. I hope it won't happen to Ms Macapagal, or it is the end.

I dissent therefore on your choice of the Filipino of the Year. Far be it for me to question the Court's good faith but it must take responsibility for weakening our processes and institutions. I submit it is on the wrong side of history here, with all due respect.—**R.A.V. SAGUISAG, 4045 Bigasan St., Palanan, Makati City**

Law needed on separation of Church and State

OUR lawmakers should listen to the clamor of the whole Filipino people for the enactment by Congress of a law absolutely separating the State from the Church.

The Church has always been interfering too much with matters that are rightly the State's like politics and the economic affairs of the country. If there is a law prohibiting the government from supporting any religious organization in its religious affairs, then a bill similarly prohibiting the Church from interfering in matters of the State should also be passed. I am sure the majority of our senators and congressmen will consider such a bill very appropriate at this time of social upheaval.

The Catholic Church, headed by Jaime Cardinal Sin, is always a disturbing factor that should be eliminated, or at least tempered, as this has pushed the political and economic affairs of the government to the brink of danger. Instead of preaching and focusing on the salvation of our souls, Sin interferes with other matters outside his concern. Should such a bill become a law, the Catholic Church would no longer be a busybody that only incurs the ire of many people.

The Catholic Church in other countries avoids interfering in political matters, and priests and nuns do not bother themselves with things which the people can solve by themselves. The Church should not allow itself to be used by just a few persons who have selfish motives.

If Pope John Paul II knows what's going on in the Philippines, he would admonish the Philippine Catholic Church authorities to keep their hands off political and economic matters.

We are praying and hoping that finally a bill will be passed banning and prohibiting the Catholic Church or any other religious denomination from interfering in the political and economic affairs of the Philippine government.—**BERNADETTE M. MAGLAGOT, Bongao, Tawi-tawi**

Late mail

HOW long does it take a letter to get from Daet, Camarines Norte to Manila? Does it make any difference if a letter is priority mail?

On Dec. 20, 2001 I sent a letter by priority mail to the Grand Secretary, Grand Lodge of the Philippines, Manila to place orders for the Past Master's Jewel and Apron in time for the installation of officers of Daet Lodge No. 247 on Jan. 26, 2002.

On Jan. 8, 2002 my fraternal brother, Jun Seeping, went to the Grand Lodge to pay for and pick up the items ordered. But to his dismay, the aforementioned letter was not yet received by the addressee.

Is this the result of the long vacation period of government employees? Or, is it due to the complacency of the employees of the Philippine Postal Corp.? If so, will this not aggravate with the four-day work week proposed by the Macapagal administration?

Meanwhile, I am calling the attention of the postmaster general about the snail-paced delivery of mail to the detriment of the public.—**FERNANDO L. RABO, Camarines Norte Masonic Center, Gov. Panotes Ave., Daet, Camarines Norte**

Doctors protest kidnaps in Central Mindanao

WE are one with the Cotabato physicians in expressing their indignation over the present security situation in their city and in calling for a stop to kidnappings. We call on government authorities to exert all efforts for the safe return of our colleague, Dr. Rosemarie Agustin.

It has been over a week now since Dr. Agustin, a practicing physician and hospital owner, has been abducted. The Pentagon Gang is the kidnap for ransom gang allegedly involved. The group is notorious for the spate of kidnappings in various parts of Mindanao, including that of Italian priest Guiseppi Pierantoni. It is a known fact among Mindanaoans that the Pentagon Gang is able to do its heinous crimes, elude military entrapment and enrich itself with large amounts of ransom money.

Why such a group is allowed to exist and wreak havoc on human lives defies logic. Are we seeing a clone of a problem here in the fashion of possible military or police colluding and protecting this kidnap-for-ransom Pentagon Gang? We cannot help but recall Fr. Cirilo Nacorda's exposé on the Abu Sayyaf-military collusion.

Even as Code Red sounds its alarm once more, it also warns the Macapagal administration from using this kidnapping incident to ask for expanded help from the US military through the US-Philippines joint military exercises.

The capture of kidnap victims is an internal matter that should be handled by our own military and local government officials. Why our own authorities cannot solve or capture these bandit groups is something that we citizens ponder upon. We call on our civil and military public servants to be dedicated in their task of good governance and help restore patriotism and integrity in our country.—**JOSEPH M. CARABEO, M.D., Code Red For Good Governance, 233 Mayon St., SMH, Quezon City**

Protesting Manila's drive against dogs

WOULDN'T it be interesting if Manila Councilor Julio Logarta Jr. were to spend his days as a stray dog on the streets of his city? To manage each second under the threat that, at any moment, any person could deprive him of the life he cherishes simply because some compassion-deficient politician had come up with a barbaric fund-raising scheme?

Admittedly, there is a grain of sense in Logarta's otherwise foolish suggestion. The pet overpopulation issue is a problem that we must deal with. Sterilization may be an ugly answer to the problem, but it's definitely the sensitive, humane choice. But instead of a spaying and neutering program, however, the councilor proposes more Draconian measures.

Logarta's solutions are unsophisticated and ignorant. He proposes the seizure of stray dogs by barangay officials who will be authorized to do so. We have a pretty good idea what will happen, should anyone be deranged enough to approve Logarta's suggestions. How about *"pulutan"*?

His suggestion to restrict dog ownership to two per household is troublesome for those who have more.

Companion animals, like children, are a big deal. To have either requires a complete understanding of the responsibilities entailed to ensure their comfort and happiness. Unfortunately, far too many people dive right in without understanding what they are getting themselves into. Sadly, the results have been disastrous, at times even tragic. This is why we are alarmed with Logarta's proclamation that "...it's every person's right to keep dogs as pets, (but) he or she should also be ready to perform the responsibilities that coincide with owning pets." For those who are not aware of the underlying violence in his statement (which was preceded by his suggestion to have "nuisance" dogs destroyed), it seems a legitimate enough declaration. But think about it: who are we to assume that we have a right to claim ownership of another living thing?

Mahatma Gandhi once said that "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated." If the Great Soul were to meet Logarta, he would probably shake his head and think: "The Philippines still has a long way to go."—**EDUARDO ENRIQUEZ, 49 Sydney St., BF International Las Piñas 1747; CLARA ENRIQUEZ, KRISTINE D. FONACIER, RANDALL ANGALA, MARLET D. SALAZAR**

What choice does the nation have?

THERE is this laughable uproar among opposition leaders against the participation of US troops in the anti-Abu Sayyaf campaign. Equally hilarious are the reasons put forward by administration officials to justify this.

It provides some respite to the public that the media find entertaining materials deviating from the daily fare of larceny by public officials. Nevertheless, it is very sad to realize that this might be the beginning of the return of nearly half a millennium of military dominance by a foreign power in our land, which the Senate under the leadership of Senate President Jovito Salonga, ended in 1991.

The combined forces, talents and mediocrity of the Philippine National Police and Armed Forces of the Philippines have been brought to bear on the Abu Sayyaf for several months now, but the end of the ordeal for some hostages (including two Americans) is not in sight. On the contrary, the bandits have been able to raise a tidy sum from the ransom money which Sen. Sergio Osmeña claims to have been paid with the blessings of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. It has been alleged further that officers of the military and local government received commissions from the loot.

The Americans are severely exercised over terrorism and terrorist cells anywhere in the world since their Sept. 11 experience. Two of their citizens are captives of the Abu Sayyaf. The pressure to work together to crush the Abu Sayyaf is too strong to resist for the United States and the Macapagal administration. On the part of the President, there is the added enticement that the rebel groups (New People's Army, Moro National Liberation Front and Moro Islamic Liberation Front) would be dealt crippling blows in the process of crushing the Abu Sayyaf with hi-tech weapons.

The argument that the Constitution is violated partakes of the ridiculous when one considers that this Constitution is ravaged daily like a whore by rakes among high officials who loot the public coffers.

Furthermore, the overriding mandate to the State enshrined in the Constitution is to ensure the survival of the nation. If we are not able to do this because we have a decrepit AFP which cannot maintain its equipment because money for its modernization was diverted to dubious expenditures and a PNP that is so inept that a shabu processing factory thrived for 10 years in the backyard of the head of the premier crime-busting body (concurrently vice president at the time), let us plead for help from anyone who is prepared to make common cause with us. Never mind if self-respect and national pride lie bleeding on the wayside.—**E.P. DAKANAY JR., 43 Baltazar St., Philamlife Village, Pamplona, Las Piñas City**

Preempted by the US 6th Army

THE ADVANCE elements of the 1st Cavalry Division (6th Army under Gen. Walter Krueger) spearheaded by tanks, crashed simultaneously into the gates of the UST Concentration Camp in España and in the Old Bilibid Prison compound on Recto Street (then Azcarraga Street) in the early evening of Feb. 3, 1945 (57 years ago). In both camps were confined thousands of allied prisoners of war (POWs).

HIGH BLOOD

Francisco G. Cedula

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. **—Ed.**

Had the US liberating force been slower or delayed in their rapid push to Manila for a few days, there would have been another liberating force that would have effected a bold gamble to save the lives of some 5,000 Dutch, English, Australian and other allied POWs in the Bilibid Prison turned POW camp. But we are getting ahead of our story.

The Japanese soldiers left to garrison Manila in the closing days of 1944 were getting panicky as they heard of the Americans' landing in Lingayen and rapid advance to Manila. Signs of evacuation of the Japanese military camps in Manila were rumored here and there. The Japanese military (Kempai Tai) were conducting round the clock zoning of known guerrilla hideouts and rounding up male civilians for forced labor.

As the commanding officer of the Sta. Mesa Unit of the 44th Hunters Division, I was discussing with my officers the strategies to evade capture in our hideout in Sta. Mesa (now Magsaysay Boulevard) on an early January morning, 1945, when a courier from another safe house arrived. The message: A group of Formosan soldiers (Taiwanese) conscripted in the Japanese Army, had offered to surrender to a guerrilla outfit, who will assure them that they will be protected by this guerrilla force from avenging civilians and to be turned over to the first American outfit that arrives.

Suspicious that this could be a trick to lure us from our hideout, I sent back the courier to the Azcarraga safe house, with instructions that we would agree to meet only the leader to size him up.

A meeting then took place in an apartment (already demolished) in Recto Street (formerly Azcarraga), near the corner of Quezon Boulevard. Five Formosan soldiers arrived, fully armed. We were taken aback and concluded it was a trick. Sensing our excitement, their leader who identified himself as Sergeant King, immediately handed over his rifle, followed by the other soldiers as a sign of surrender. Their story: They were part of some 25 Formosan soldiers assigned to guard the POW camp in the Bilibid Prison compound (now occupied by the Manila Police Department and Fabella Maternity Hospital). This was under the command of a Major Takehiro, a Japanese doctor and seven other (pure) Japanese. They were aware of the advancing American Army and want to surrender to the first US force, but they had to do this before the arrival of the Americans. They were certain that they would be left there by the Japanese superiors, but not after the allied POWs would have been massacred. As we talked that morning, an idea to save the POWs was hatched. This we broached to the Formosan soldiers. We will protect them from Filipino civilians and hide them until their turnover to the Americans as POWs. In turn, they will kill their Japanese superiors, turn over their Enfield rifles (earlier captured from the Filipinos) and ammunitions to us, and open the gates of the prison compound to our unit (then numbering four squads). With this agreement, King returned to the Bilibid Prison, but the others chose not to return. (We had to secure safe houses for these four Formosans, mostly in the houses of members of the Sta. Mesa Unit, who were not so happy about it). King took with him a letter from me, to be smuggled in the POW camp to a certain Commander Johnson. Earlier, King identified the commanding officer of the internees as an Australian navy officer. I wrote Johnson a short message that an operation liberating them from possible massacre by the retreating Japanese was being planned, and requested him to reply. (I never received an answer, but King insisted that he gave the letter. Probably Johnson distrusted the message itself.)

We had two more meetings with King, finalizing the details of the operation. He said his men were ready to implement their part. All Japanese—nine of them—will be killed and on a signal the Formosans will open the gate fronting the Evangelista Street in Quiapo. My force, about 50 men, armed with assorted weapons, pistols and augmented by five Enfield rifles, will crash into the compound and assume defensive positions, for any counterattack by other Japanese elements in the vicinity. With the heavy weapons of the Japanese, we would have enough firepower to repel the enemy, until the arrival of the US forces. The short-wave radio revealed the advancing US forces to be only four days away from Manila and we decided to strike two days before (this would give us only one or two days defensive action). With new recruits from other guerrilla outfits hastily trained in the use of bolt-action Enfield rifles, these were slowly concentrated in the Azcarraga apartment safe houses to avoid suspicion, by the 1st and 2nd day of October 1944.

But the 1st Cavalry Division preempted us, with its rapid deployment on Feb. 3. The rest is history. And all we can claim now is that we nearly liberated the POW Camp in the Bilibid Prison.

Francisco G. Cedula, 79, is the national commander of the Philippine Veterans Legion.

Welcome presence indeed

HOORAY for Neal H. Cruz's column, particularly the item on how much ruckus these ultra and pseudo-nationalists are raising over the presence of American soldiers in our shores. My own humble thinking has been along this same line expounded by Cruz and I am quite vocal about the issue among my limited circle of friends.

I hope more Filipinos will look at it as a most welcome relief, although a bitter pill to take. Is it too much to swallow our foolish "pride"? For pure and simple pride it is that makes them reject whatever logistics are offered to our ill-equipped armed forces. Will these rabble-rousers answer, with all sincerity, this question: How much do you really love your country and its people?—**LETICIA LLANETA, leticia.llaneta @up.edu.ph**

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph

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The WORLD

Luvern B. Gueco, Editor

At least 500 dead after Lagos blasts

LAGOS—More than 500 bodies of drowned people were retrieved from canals in Lagos on Monday after bomb explosions from a burning military arms depot triggered panic in Nigeria's biggest city, witnesses and officials said.

"I have counted more than 60 bodies here. Ambulances and families have taken away more than 200 from this canal alone," a witness said at the Oke-Afa canal near the devastated Ikeja military barracks.

Soldiers and other rescue workers brought out between 200 and 300 bodies from the adjoining Pako canal, local residents who helped in the rescue operation said.

"Many people have reported missing children, and there are children looking for their parents," Lagos Police Commissioner Mike Okiro said.

More than 700 children in one district alone were reported separated from their parents after the worst disaster in the city of 10 million since deadly political riots there in 1993.

The AIT television network in Lagos showed pictures of piles of bodies, mostly women and children, surrounded by large crowds of onlookers.

Witnesses reported extensive damage inside the barracks and to nearby homes and public buildings after the series of huge explosions on Sunday.

"A whole section of the barracks is destroyed and some buildings are still smoldering," one said. "Hundreds of shells of all types are on the ground everywhere. Some have not exploded."

President Olusegun Obasanjo visited the barracks and pledged urgent relief assistance and a military inquiry.

"We have directed the police to create a particular location to ensure that missing children can be located by their parents," he told hundreds of angry mothers. *Reuters*

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A MASTER'S FAMOUS PHOTOGRAPH REUTERS / MANUEL ALVAREZ BRAVO

This famous photograph by Mexican photographer Manuel Alvarez Bravo, which he titled, "The Good Reputation Sleeping," was taken in 1938 for a surrealist exhibition in Mexico City organized by French surrealist, and good friend of Bravo's, Andre Breton. Manuel Alvarez Bravo, who turns 100 this year, is being honored with a permanent exhibit hall in Mexico City's Modern Art Museum and a retrospective in the Getty Center in Los Angeles.

Boeing 727 with 92 aboard disappears

BOGOTA, Colombia—An Ecuadorean Boeing 727 jetliner disappeared in Colombia's Andes mountains on Monday, but fog and nightfall put a quick end to the day's search efforts for the 92 passengers and crew on board, officials said.

Air traffic control lost contact with TAME airlines Flight 120 as it circled into Colombian territory to maneuver around snow capped mountain peaks and return to the Ecuadorean border city of Tulcan, TAME said.

Seven children, including two infants, were among the 83 passengers on board the flight, which took off from Ecuador's capital Quito at 10:03 a.m. local time and was due in Tulcan about half an hour later.

Colombian air force and Civil Aviation Department aircraft focused search efforts around the Colombian volcano Cumbal, with a peak of 4,764 meters—but said foggy conditions hampered Monday's patrols.

The hunt for the lost plane in the treacherous mountains was suspended at nightfall until daybreak on Tuesday.

"There is a lot of fog in the zone, which is complicating the search," a Colombian Civil Aviation Department spokesperson said. *Reuters*

Bush refuses to release Enron documents; court showdown looms

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush declined Monday to hand over documents related to White House contacts with failed energy giant Enron, calling a congressional request for them an "encroachment" on the executive.

Bush echoed comments by Vice President Dick Cheney, head of a White House task force to set energy policy, who indicated Sunday he would not agree to requests by the General Accounting Office (GAO), the investigative arm of Congress, to have access to documents.

The remarks came at the beginning of a week when the head of the GAO is expected to decide whether to take the White House to court to force the administration to release the documents.

The documents would contain information about meetings with executives of Enron Corp. The suit would be the first time the GAO has sued the executive branch.

Meanwhile, Cheney revealed late Monday a key environmental policy request made by the now bankrupt energy giant Enron before a special presidential task force on energy policy had been rejected by the Bush administration.

Cheney has acknowledged meeting with top Enron officials six times when he worked on the administration's energy policy that was unveiled last year.

The admission has given rise to speculation that Enron, known for its lavish political campaign donations, exerted excessive influence on the energy task force headed by Cheney.

According to the latest CBS News opinion poll, the refusal to hand over the documents could be beginning to backfire against the administration, with 67 percent of respondents saying they believe the Bush White House is hiding something.

Enron's filing for Chapter 11 protection on Dec. 2 marked the largest-ever bankruptcy filing by a US corporation, with its ripple effect being felt far beyond the company's imposing Houston, Texas, headquarters.

The Enron collapse has resulted in more than 4,000 workers losing their jobs, and thousands more parting with their retirement savings invested in company stock that has become all but worthless.

More than 400 current and former Enron employees filed a class action lawsuit in Houston earlier Monday seeking to recover lost retirement assets, claiming they were victims of a "shell game" by the failed company. *AFP*

Ang mabisang mag-alaga, umaraw man o umulan, maaasahan

Hindi lang sa pag-ulat ng balita maaasahan si Mel Tiangco. Ito'y alam na alam ng ating mga kababayang natulungan na ng Bisig Bayan.

Sa outreach program na ito, kasama si Mel tumulong sa mga nangangailangan ng mga bagay tulad ng pagkain at gamot sa iba't-ibang dako ng bansa. Kahit ano pa man ang sungit ng panahon o tindi ng trahedya, ang taos-pusong pangangalaga ni Mel ay tiyak na mararamdaman.

Gaya nga ng Pharex Medicines. Tumaas man ang presyo ng bilihin o tumama man ang kung anong krisis, maaasahang mananatiling abot-kaya ang presyo ng Pharex. At umaraw man o bumagyo, mapapagkatiwalaan ang bisa at kalidad ng Pharex Medicines. Ito ang alagang Pharex.

Sa panahon ng pangangailangan, dito nalalaman kung sino talaga ang maaasahan.

Mel Tiangco at Pharex: Alagang Maaasahan

Mel Tiangco with some beneficiaries of Bisig Bayan.

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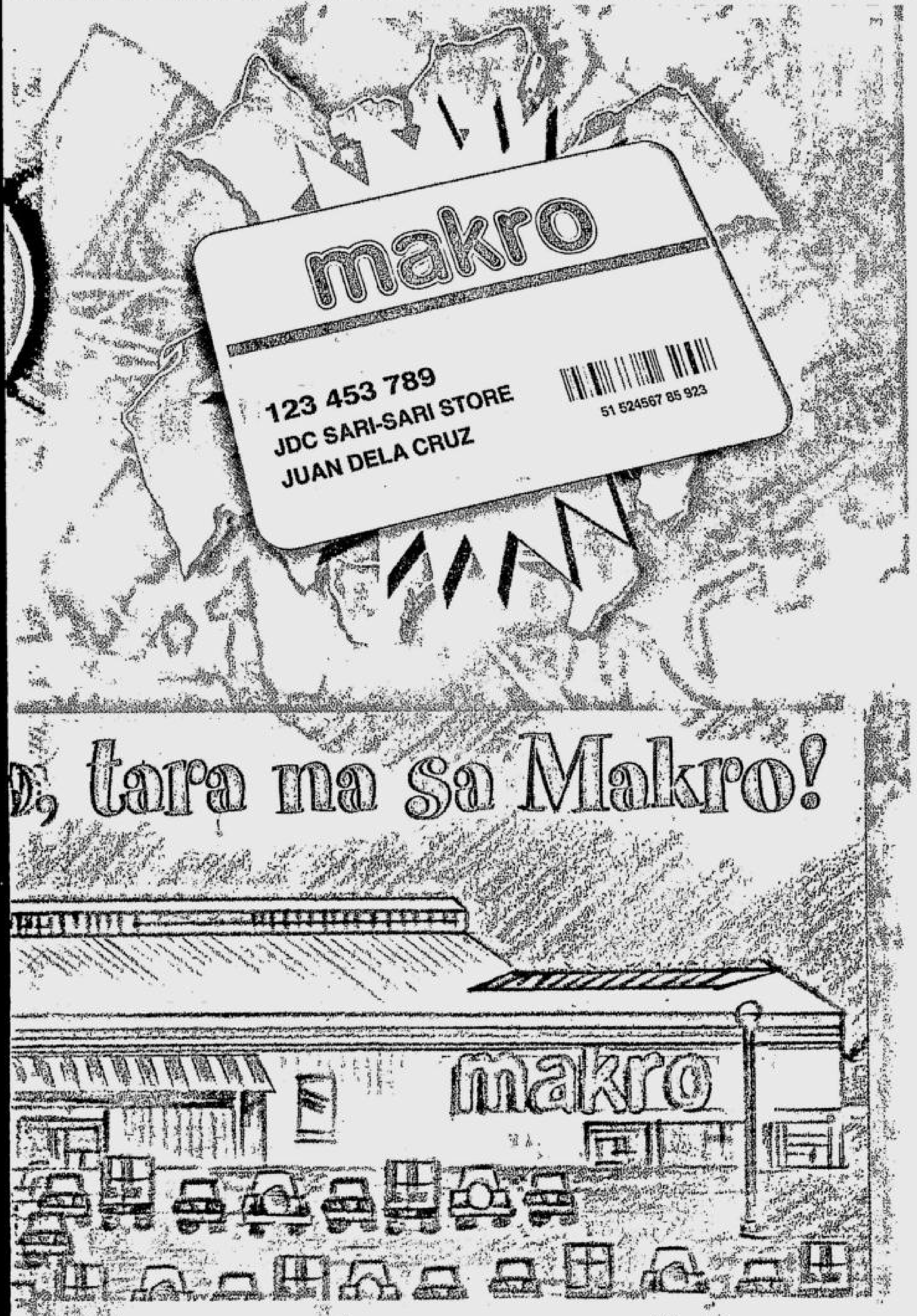
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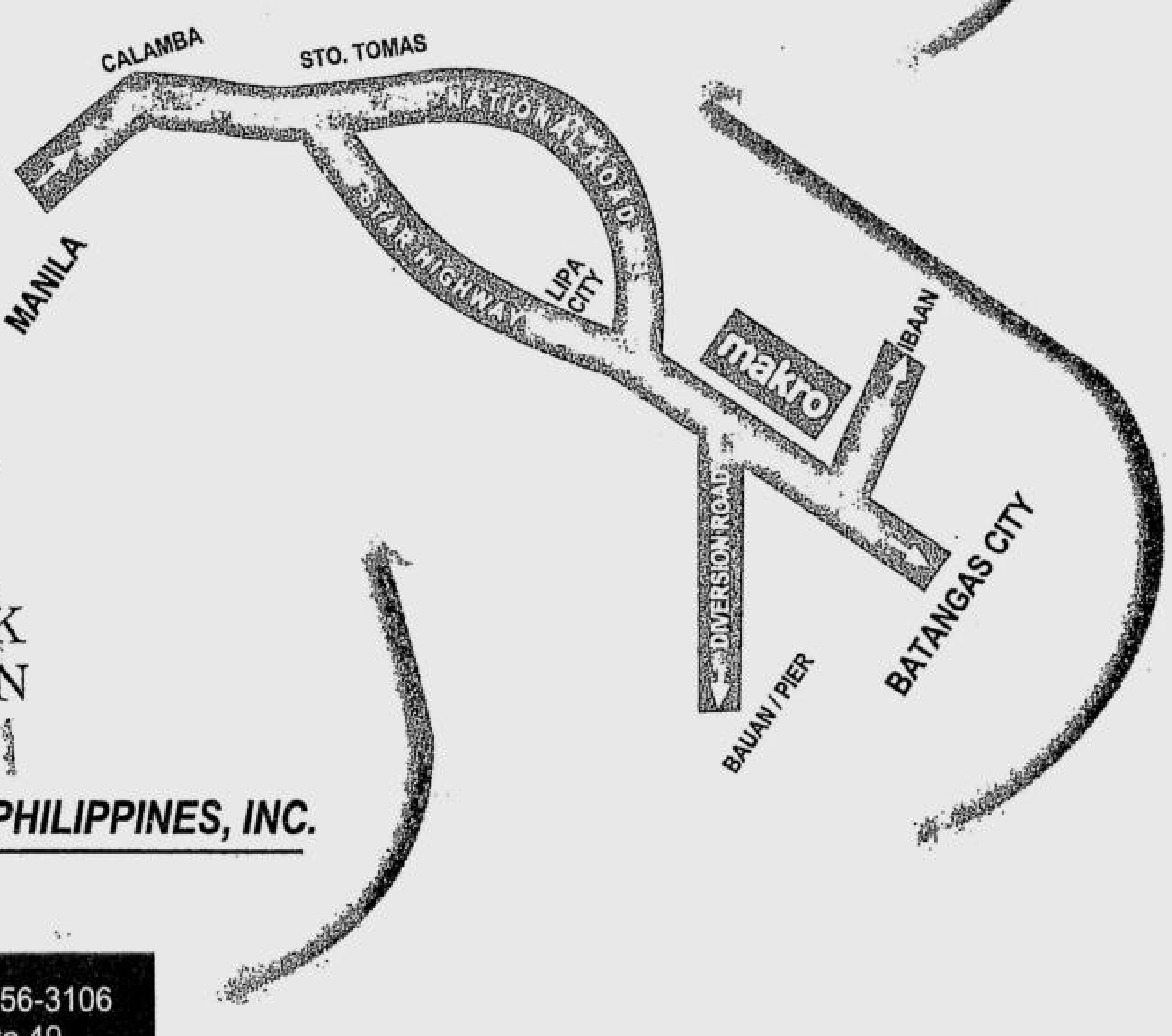
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Southern Luzon Bureau
23 Aurora St.,Old Albay District
Legazpi City
Tel. No . (052) 820-8402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

Across the NATION

Tony Bergonia, Assistant Editor

Visayas Bureau
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: pdivis@skyinet.net

Mindanao Bureau
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. Nos. (082) 244-1770 to 71
Fax no. (082) 2441771
E-mail:
pdiminda@dv.weblinq.com

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern and Eastern Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	HI31° Lo 20°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	HI 23° Lo 13°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 18°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 21°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 20°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	HI 29° Lo 18°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 24°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 21°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 23°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 25°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 23°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 22°
Davao	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 23°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/01/30/02

ROUNDUP

Measles kills 12

LUCENA CITY—Two more Mangyan children died last week of complications caused by measles, bringing to 12 the number of Mangyan children who have died of the highly contagious disease. Dr. Rosario Famiran, regional health officer, said all the fatalities were from Mansalay town, 170 km south of Calapan City. From October to December last year, 272 measles cases, including 10 deaths, were recorded by the Mansalay health office. For Jan. 1-15 this year, Famiran reported 62 cases, 49 of whom were admitted to various government hospitals in Oriental Mindoro. Famiran said measles had broken out in 16 Mangyan villages. ***Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

102 rebels yield

LUCENA CITY—Maj. Gen. Ernesto Carolina, head of the Southern Luzon Command, said 102 communist guerrillas have surrendered in Oriental Mindoro as a result of civilian and military efforts. During the Regional Peace and Order Council meeting held in Calapan City, Carolina said the surrender came after Army soldiers were redeployed in the province "only six months" ago. "This is a big blow to them (New People's Army rebels). It only shows that we can defeat them if we are united," he said as he cited the cooperation of several mayors and Gov. Bartolome Marasigan in effecting the surrender of the rebels. ***Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Radiomen running

NAGA CITY—Three broadcasters here are running for elective posts in the coming barangay elections. Veteran broadcasters Anjo Julia, David Nopre and Jojo Villafuerte, who are employed in rival radio stations, have been courting voters in their villagers. As in past elections, the barangay elections here are expected to be a "proxy war" among wards of influential politicians in Camarines Sur. ***Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Trader killed

DAVAO CITY—A businessman with a pending drug case was shot and killed by suspected members of the Digos Death Squad on Sunday in Bansalan, Davao del Sur. Henry Leynes, 34, was leaving his house in Barangay Poblacion when two men fired at him. His wife Geraldine, who rushed to embrace Henry, was also hit by bullets. The assassins fled on board a motorcycle. Police said Leynes was recently arrested on drug charges. More than 20 vigilante-related killings have so far been reported in Davao del Sur since last year. ***Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Estrellado, 82

DAVAO CITY—Epifanio Estrellado, dean emeritus of the Ateneo de Davao Law School, died of pneumonia on Monday. He was 82. A noted law lecturer and expert on civil and commercial laws, Estrellado graduated from the University of Manila and passed the bar exams in 1949. He began teaching civil and commercial laws to bar examinees at the Ateneo de Davao College of Law in 1953. He was one of the founding members of the Philippine Association of Law Schools and one of the first accredited voluntary arbitrators here. His remains lie at 518 Kamuning St., Juna Subdivision here. ***PDI Mindanao Bureau***

6 men found dead in Ecija towns

By Anselmo Roque
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CABANATUAN CITY—The bodies of six men, believed to be victims of summary executions, have been recovered in four towns in Nueva Ecija from Thursday to Sunday last week, police said.

In Sta. Rosa town, two unidentified men were found dead Sunday morning in Barangays Maliolio and Sto. Rosario, according to Roberto Cayusa, municipal administrator.

Cayusa said the victims were reported killed elsewhere and their bodies dumped in the town.

In Rizal town, two men were found dead in Barangay Cabucbucan, also on Sunday morning.

Joseph Palad, an employee at the vice mayor's office, said one of the victims was from Carranglan town and the other was from a village in Rizal. Police have not established the identities of the victims.

Two bodies were also found in Cuyapo and Bongabon towns last week.

Police said the hands of the victims found in Cuyapo and Bongabon were bound and their mouth taped. Their bodies bore bullet wounds.

The INQUIRER tried to reach Senior Supt. Raul Bacalzo, Nueva Ecija police director, for his comments on the killings and the alleged operation of a vigilante group in the province, but a junior police official said Bacalzo was in Camp Crame on Tuesday.

Reports in Sta. Rosa and Rizal said the victims were killed by suspected members of the "Red Vigilantes." The group reportedly targets suspected drug pushers and those involved in robbery and holdup incidents.

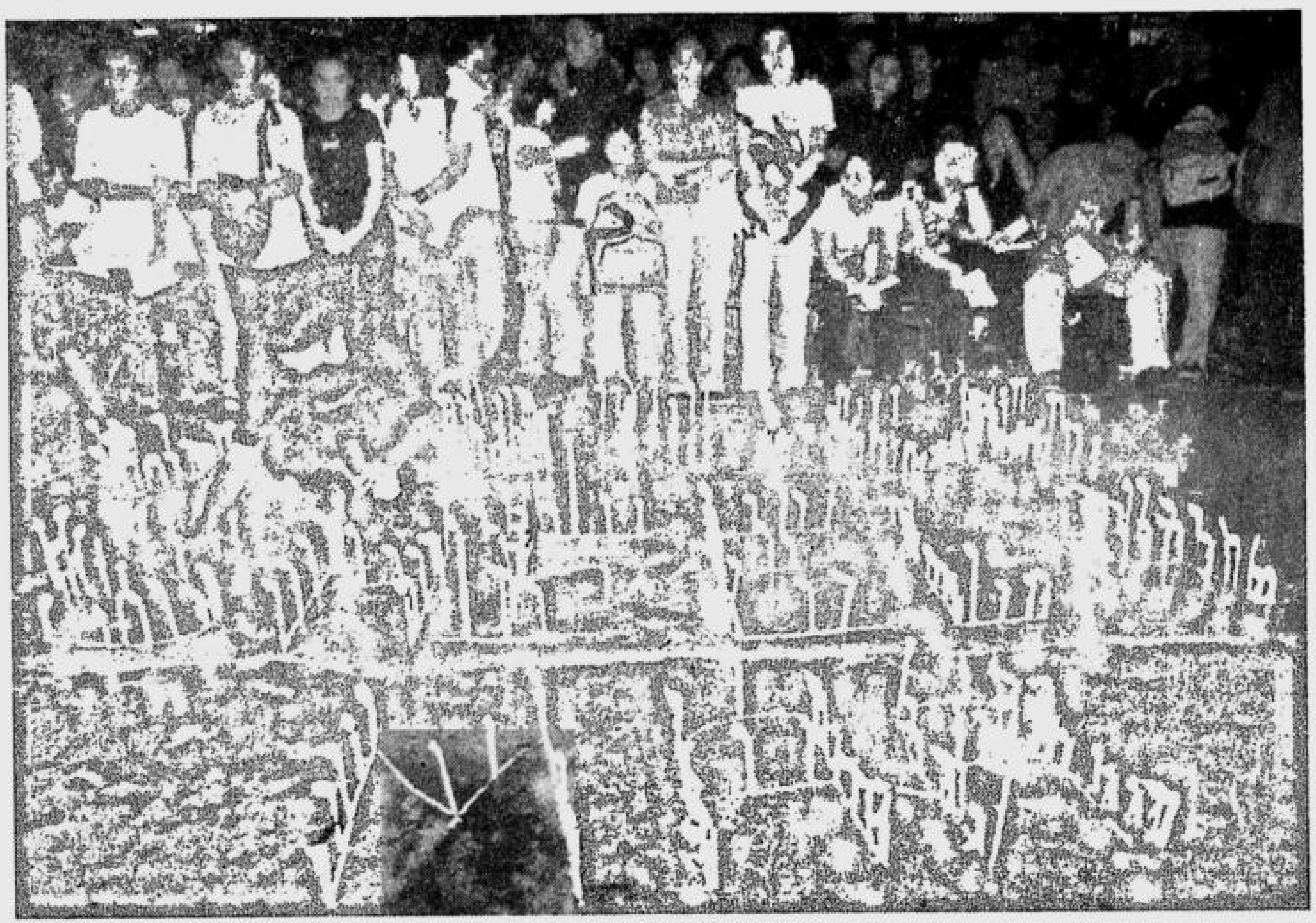
These vigilantes were said to be moving around in motorcycles.

Summary execution cases in Nueva Ecija alarmed government officials last year when the number of victims reached more than 30, most of them in the City of Gapan.

In one incident in Gapan last year, 11 people were abducted by a group of men in Barangay Sto. Niño and a day after, six of them were found dead in nearby San Miguel, Bulacan.

Gapan Mayor Ernesto Natividad appealed to those involved in the killings to let law enforcers deal with the criminals.

Gov. Tomas Joson III said prospective investors were avoiding the province because of these reports on summary executions.



RYAN LIM/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

CANDLELIGHT PROTEST
Students of the University of Mindanao in Davao City light candles on Monday to denounce the killing of 20-year-old Sheila Mar Celerinos, a candidate for cum laude, inside a classroom.

Payumo dares solon: Probe Gordon, too

SBMA head diverting issue, says tourism chief

SUBIC Bay Metropolitan Authority Chair Felicito Payumo challenged Akbayan Party-list Rep. Loreta Ann Rosales on Monday to investigate an alleged P853.5 million disallowed expenditure of his predecessor Richard Gordon.

Payumo dared Rosales to seek the inquiry so that, he said, the amount could be recovered by the government.

'No efforts are being made to settle these disallowances which should have already lapsed into final charges and constitute personal liability of the accountable officers and other persons concerned," he said in a letter to Rosales.

He made the challenge after Rosales filed a resolution asking the House committee on good government to investigate the car accident involving Payumo's son, Jose Antonio.

Rosales wanted an inquiry on the "alleged misuse and consequent destruction of government property," specifically a red 1998 Pajero registered in the SBMA name.

She said the Pajero was damaged when the young Payumo was driving it "under the influence of alcohol" on Dec. 1 last year inside the Subic Freeport.

Gordon, when reached by the INQUIRER, described as "ridiculous" Payumo's challenge to Rosales. He said Payumo was "trying to divert attention from his and his family own wrongdoings" by asking for an investigation of the alleged disallowances.

Rosales said the "damaged vehicle . . . was nowhere to be found, thus leading a reasonable man to believe that there is an attempt to whitewash and cover up the incident."

Payumo denied this, saying the vehicle was being repaired—at his son's expense—and would be out in 10 days.

"Yes, there was an accident involving my son but it was an accident caused by an obstruction in the dimly lit area where a road widening work was going on. It was not because of drunken driving," Payumo said.

He said his son did not use the vehicle, contrary to allegations and that he did that night only because the driver had to take off early.

"No, he doesn't use it regularly. Yes, it is he, and not SBMA, who will pay for the damage. No, the car is not missing. It is being repaired and will be finished in 10 days," Payumo said.

But Gordon said Payumo, who has been in the government for over 10 years, should "know that only authorized drivers are allowed to drive government vehicles. And yet, he allows, tolerates and continues to make excuses for his son's irresponsibility and reckless behavior."

Gordon added: "The issue here is that Payumo hasn't taught his own family about the responsibilities of being in government. They think that they can do anything, and if something goes wrong, they think it is as simple as paying for the financial consequences of their actions."

Payumo said he did not expect the House committee to spend time investigating the incident, since the car is already being repaired at no cost to the government.

Gordon said there was reason to investigate the incident involving the young Payumo "to make sure that it doesn't happen again."

He also said Payumo should "teach his son to be a man that he is not."

Payumo said if Rosales, after reading his explanation, still thinks the House should spend its time and resources on investigating the incident, then she should also file a resolution to investigate the alleged P853.5 million disallowed expenses incurred by Gordon when he was SBMA chair.

"They refer mostly to payroll which included names of supposed volunteers who denied receiving all or any of them since they were precisely on volunteer service," Payumo said.

Gordon said Payumo's charges were "pure harassment" meant to block his appointment as tourism secretary. ***Juliet Javellana, with a report from PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Cop probed on links to Pentagon

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Another police officer will be investigated for his links to the Pentagon kidnap group.

Senior Supt. Bartolome Baluyot, police chief for Central Mindanao, said Supt. Willie Dangane, chief of the Sanglahi-Pentagon Anti-Kidnapping Task Force, has been summoned to Camp Crame by no less than the PNP chief, Director General Leandro Mendoza.

Dangane has been tagged as one of the protectors of the Pentagon gang operating in South-Central Mindanao.

But in a recent interview aired over Radyo Bombo in Koronadal City, Dangane denied the accusation, claiming he was just a victim of a "war" among police generals in Crame.

Dangane said he had already hired a legal counsel to defend him in case his detractors pursued the filing of charges against him.

The controversial police official vowed to wipe out the Pentagon to prove that the charges were nothing but a "demolition job" aimed at destroying his credibility.

Baluyot refused to elaborate on the investigation but said a high-ranking official based in Crame was handling it.

The police general tasked with investigating Dangane is reportedly a former police official assigned here in the 1990s and is now deployed at the PNP Directorate for Intelligence and Detective Management.

The probe was triggered by charges hurled by Chief Supt. Eduardo Matillano, police chief for Southern Mindanao, that Dangane was a protector of the Pentagon.

The INQUIRER tried but failed to contact Dangane through his cellular phone. He was reportedly in Lanao del Norte leading operations to rescue kidnapped Italian missionary Fr. Giuseppe Pierantoni.

Matillano said Dangane was tagged by three suspected Pentagon members as one of their protectors.

This claim, he said, was bolstered by other witnesses who saw Dangane and a police inspector, identified only as certain Ali, to have been frequenting the hideout of Faisal Marohombsar, a Pentagon leader, in Tacurong City.

Matillano said the cell phone data entries of the arrested Pentagon members also included the name of Dangane.

Also being investigated is Supt. Efren Alcuizar, chief of the Regional Anti-Narcotics Office based in General Santos City. ***Aquiles Zonio, Anthony Allada and Dennis Jay Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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ROYAL BRUNEI

S. Mindanao readies for tourists from Korea, Taiwan

By Joel B. Escovilla
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—With the decrease in Japanese and American tourist arrivals in the city, the region's tourism office is banking on Korean or Taiwanese tourists and businessmen to take their place.

Sonya Garcia, tourism regional director, said the arrival of Koreans and Taiwanese to this city has actually increased in recent months.

She said the Koreans and Taiwanese were interested in outdoor activities like mountain climbing, golf and diving.

"They just don't want to stay in the city," she said. Korean tour operators have visited the city last week for an ocular inspection of the city's tourist spots.

"They are offering tour packages into the country but they are too limited, only for 2-3 days, and they want to expand it," she said.

The Japanese and US governments have both issued travel advisories to their citizens discouraging them from visiting the Philippines following the abduction of foreign missionaries and tourists and the attack on the Pearl Farm Resort on Samal Island and the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan.

The Japanese consulate has since sent a letter to the city council stating that the Japanese government was thinking of lifting the travel advisory ban on Davao City.

She said that with the number of foreign arrivals declining last year because of the perception that the country is a war-torn area, only the Korean and Taiwanese tourist arrivals have not been affected.

Garcia added that several Korean businessmen arrived here last week to look at the possibility of investing in the $250-million Ekran Berhad Casino Resort in the Island Garden City of Samal.

The resort closed down in July 2000 due to heavy losses brought about by declining tourist arrivals.

"The Korean investors haven't talked with the owners of the Ekran Berhad yet, but they will be coming back next week," she said.

She said they have talked with the managers of Ekran Berhad and were told that the management was open to investment proposals.

Poachers threaten marine sanctuary

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LUCENA CITY—Efforts to save the once vibrant Tayabas Bay through the establishment of marine protected areas are continuously being sabotaged by fish sanctuary poachers, according to an environmental group here.

Illegal fishers using compressors, dynamites or cyanide have gone largely unchallenged in five of the protected marine havens in Sariaya, Padre Burgos, Agdangan, Catanauan and this city, said Glenn Forbes, community coordinator of the Tanggol Kalikasan, a public interest environmental law firm in Southern Tagalog.

"Whatever they do, it's not only the sanctuaries that are being destroyed. The coral reefs, the growing fish haven and the collective efforts of the community (to protect them) are blown to bits as well," said Forbes.

Proceso Alcala, a businessman and principal initiator of the Public-Private Partnership Conference for the Preservation of Tayabas Bay, said the 16-hectare fish sanctuary off the coastal village of Barra here, has been the prime target of poachers.

Alcala said there were times when blast fishing was done inside this area.

"It's really quite frustrating for us because after spending our time, money and effort to save the bay and replenish its resources, there are saboteurs wanting to destroy it," Alcala, a scuba diving enthusiast, said.

Alcala, who lives along the banks of the Iyam River leading to the Tayabas Bay delta, collects leftover food from several restaurants in the city to feed the fish while on board his speedboat.

"Feeding the teeming fish with my bare hands is the kind of high that is simply unparalleled. I've watched fish in the sanctuary grow. I could not afford (to surrender it) to thieves," he vowed.

Lawyer Asis Perez, Tanggol Kalikasan-TK head, said the commercially rich fishing in the Tayabas Bay was what draws the fishermen to the area. He said they had nowhere else to go.

"Most of their former traditional fishing grounds have already been fished-out by the big commercial fishers," he said.

Government records show that commercial fishing dominates the Tayabas Bay. Big commercial fishers contribute 83 percent of its total production, while municipal fishermen contribute 17 percent, despite the fact that the entire bay falls under municipal water classification.

Under Republic Act 8550, commercial fishing vessels are prohibited from fishing within 15 kilometers from municipal shore.

Perez called for the application of an integrated approach to solve illegal fishing in the Tayabas Bay. "The government, the private sector and all stakeholders should act as one and in consonance with each other," he said.

Lucena Mayor Ramon Talaga Jr. said the city government was strengthening the Bantay Dagat force to curb the illegal fishing.

Supt. Primo Rivera, regional director of the 4th District Maritime Command based in Barangay Dalahican, said they would double their efforts in patrolling the Tayabas Bay with two newly delivered motorized banca from Camp Crame.

Ifugao gov hits transfer of rice terraces' supervision

BANAUE, Ifugao—Gov. Teodoro Baguilat Jr. has criticized the decision of President Macapagal-Arroyo to transfer the supervision of the preservation and development of the centuries-old Ifugao rice terraces from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of Tourism.

"The problem is that at the macro-level, they are planning and implementing (policies) without informing us," Baguilat said. Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor was "disappointed" over the decision, he said.

Decision-makers from the national government are "difficult to understand (*mahirap intindihin*)" for allowing the intrusion of "too much tourism" that will alter the features of the province's terraces, Baguilat said.

"Personally, I want to have few tourists in the area to preserve the terraces. Once these terraces are (commercialized), more hotels and establishments will sprout like mushrooms," he told the INQUIRER.

He said the government should instead focus on the Ifugao farmers' problems with the infestation of golden *kuhol* (snail) and rats, as well as the irrigation system for mountain farms.

He is coordinating with officials of the Central Cordillera Agricultural Program (Cecap) to firm up plans, present activities and future projects for the preservation of the terraces, he said.

AN IFUGAO elder poses for a souvenir picture with the famed Banaue rice terraces.
E.V. ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

On Feb. 15-16, Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon will visit the province to learn the ways of the Ifugao, Baguilat said.

Gordon would also solicit suggestions from Ifugao communities to improve their plight, he said.

"He (Gordon) told me that he was ashamed of not knowing personally how Ifugao farmers do the planting and harvesting. So he said he was raring to learn these during his visit," Baguilat said.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) included the Ifugao rice terraces in its World Heritage Sites in 1995.

However, the Unesco also placed the terraces on its endangered list last year due to the government's absence of resources in the restoration and preservation of the centuries-old engineering wonders.

The famous Ifugao rice terraces can be found in Banaue, Hungduan, Kiangan, Mayoyao and Asipulo towns.

Ms Macapagal earlier promised to continue preserving the terraces to maintain their distinction as a cultural heritage.

She said the terraces were deteriorating due to the refusal of young Ifugao people to farm because of inadequate yield.

The President earlier approved the release of P10 million to start the preservation efforts.

"They (Ifugao youths) are now going out of the province, mostly to Metro Manila, to find jobs," Baguilat said.

He also urged Congress to immediately act on a bill filed by Ifugao Rep. Solomon Chungalao seeking to establish a government body to protect and conserve the rice terraces.

Earlier, Chungalao asked the President and Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. to certify as urgent his bill seeking to provide P100 million for the rehabilitation of the endangered terraces. ***Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Ople dissatisfied with probe

HAGONOY, Bulacan—Sen. Blas Ople expressed dissatisfaction with the slow progress of police investigation into the murder of his son-in-law last Jan. 23 in Legazpi City.

Ople said a week after the murder of his son-in-law, businessman Arthur Meliton San Jose, 47, investigators have yet to establish the motive.

San Jose's body was found inside the toilet of Room 413 of the Magayon Hotel in Legazpi where the victim was staying. His body bore bullet wounds.

Ople urged police to speed up the investigation to give justice to the death of San Jose, who was married to the senator's eldest daughter Dalisay.

He also thanked President Macapagal-Arroyo for ordering the National Bureau of Investigation and the police to hasten the solution of the case.

San Jose, a native of Camarines Sur, was buried in Oples' hometown here on Tuesday.

Dalisay, also Ople's chief-of-staff, said it was her children's request to bury their father in Hagonoy to make it easier for them to visit his tomb.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Ecija capitol moved

CABANATUAN CITY—After more than 37 years, the seat of the provincial government of Nueva Ecija will be transferred to the capital city of Palayan.

The transfer will take place today and will coincide with the inauguration of the new provincial capitol. The two-story building, situated on 1.2 hectares of land in Palayan, was built at a cost of P240 million.

The capitol is within the planned 55-hectare property intended for a government center and commercial, recreational, educational, housing and ecological zones in the city.

Gov. Tomas Joson III said the dream of putting up a new capitol and transfer of the seat of provincial government of Nueva Ecija in Palayan has been nurtured from the time the city was created 37 years ago. ***Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

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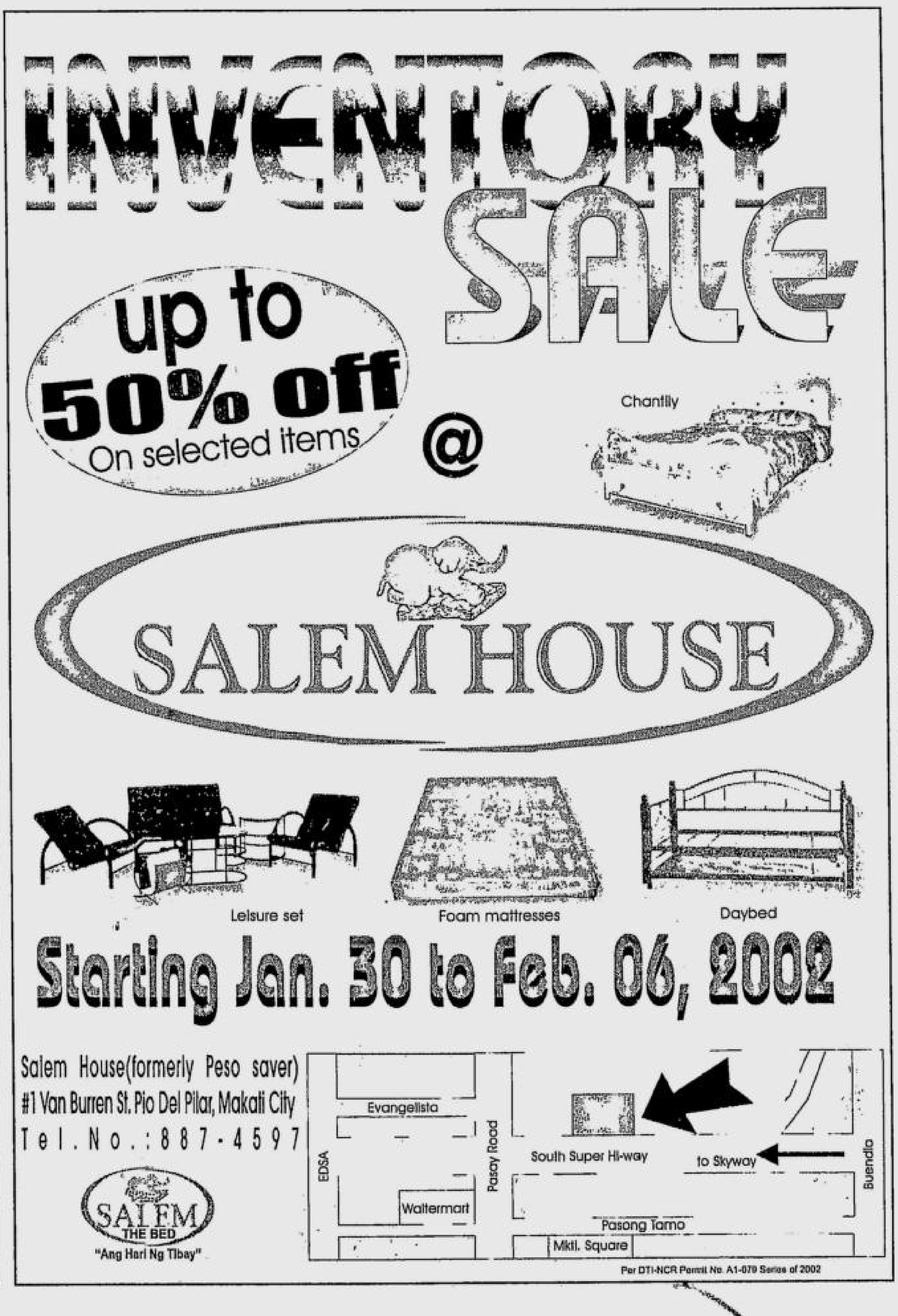

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INQUIRER Northern Luzon
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Saving the Ifugao rice terraces

By Maurice Malanes
Banaue, Ifugao

THE RICE planting season in Banaue, Ifugao, is just over, and Amando Campilit contemplates on leaving Banga-an, his home village famous for its picturesque rice terraces, to earn extra pesos elsewhere.

"Awan, nganngani ma-ibus manen (Oh, they are almost consumed)," said Campilit, 55, referring to the rice he and his family harvested in November and December.

The father of four thus intends to go to Baguio City to seek jobs, such as riprapping (building stone walls), digging ditches or driving a cab.

Even if he leaves Banga-an, Campilit returns home by June or July, when the rice fields in his village turn golden with ready-to-harvest grains. After the harvest, he leaves again to look for jobs elsewhere.

Such is the common living pattern of Banaue and other Ifugao rice farmers.

'The rice terraces are nothing without rice in them'

For most farmers, the rice they produce from the terraces is not enough to tide them over until the next harvest. Reason: it takes five to six months before they can harvest their traditional *tinawon* (literally, once a year) rice.

Most Ifugao farming family own an average of only 2,000 square meters of rice field. The farmers leave their home villages not only after the planting season but also after harvest when the fields are left fallow for the rest of the year.

"Otherwise, we'll go hungry if we stay here and totally rely on our rice fields," said Campilit.

World Heritage Site

Since 1995, Ifugao's rice terraces, including those in Banga-an, have been included in the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization's list of World Heritage Sites.

Unesco came out with the list to help draw the attention of governments and public opinion "to protect cultural and natural sites of universal value that are particularly threatened by natural causes or human intervention."

But what has the inclusion of the centuries-old rice terraces in the World Heritage list got to do with improving the life of the Ifugao, like Campilit?

Not much, unless the Unesco campaign has something to do with improving the terraces' rice production, say Ifugao leaders.

"We can save the rice terraces only if we improve rice production," says retired anthropology and history professor Matthew Angiwan Sr., who hails from neighboring Mayoyao town. "The rice terraces are nothing without rice in them."

CHILDREN of the village of Banga-an in Banaue, Ifugao: Will they continue the tradition of the famed rice terraces? E.V. ESPIRITU

Gov. Teodoro Baguilat Jr. has also stressed on improving rice production and getting the local youth to appreciate the culture that revolves around rice cultivation.

After studying the constraints of producing rice in the Ifugao and other Cordillera rice terraces, the European Union-funded Central Cordillera Agricultural Program (Cecap) has also recommended some measures to help improve rice yield in the terraces.

Among these are using "outstanding" traditional varieties and applying nitrogen-rich organic fertilizer, such as decayed azolla and sunflower leaves.

Watersheds

Since low rice yields are also due to the cooler climate of Banaue and other parts of Ifugao, Cecap recommends that farmers time their rice planting in such a way that rice plants start bearing flowers when it gets warmer in April and May.

Improving rice production in Ifugao, according to Cecap, must not be separate from other efforts such as saving and enhancing the province's remaining watersheds.

Luckily, the Ifugao folk have long maintained traditional forest management practices, which environmentalists have acknowledged as sustainable.

The people, for example, have maintained their forests through their *muyongs* and *hinu-obs*. The *muyongs* are privately owned forests, groves or wood lots on top of rice paddies.

On the other hand, the *hinu-obs*, which are also found on top of the paddies, are community-based and are used and managed by residents of the same watershed region or tribe. Some *hinu-obs* are far from the settlement areas with undisturbed soil and forest cover.

The Ifugao folk have long appreciated that their *muyongs* and *hinu-obs* feed the springs and tributaries that sustain their rice terraces. Thus, they have instituted community policies on how to use and replenish their forest resources.

For example, they bring down only trees with certain "harvestable" sizes and they get only what they need.

Unfortunately, the government's declaration of Ifugao as part of the "sub-watershed" for the Magat multipurpose dam has disenfranchised many Ifugao folk from their ancestral domain and land claims for several decades, says the Cecap study.

"In many cases, it (declaration of the Magat dam sub-watershed) has increased illegal logging and forest destruction in the province as traditional rights have been ignored," says the study, which is now contained in the 213-page book, "Highland Rice Production in the Highland Cordillera," published last year.

The Cecap suggests that government policy must be in-sync with indigenous traditional forest watershed management practices, such as the *muyong* and the *hinu-ob*.

"Let's save the rice terraces," President Macapagal-Arroyo had told Ifugao officials when she visited the province this month.

But as Cecap noted in its study, saving the rice terraces, like planting rice, is no fun, and it takes more than public relations rhetoric to save the world's eighth wonder, which Ifugao ancestors intended to help keep next generations from going hungry.

The return of the native: A rural anthology of Cuyapeños

By Percy D. Della

LIFE. Captured daily," shouts the tagline of the Sacramento Bee, the daily newspaper in my adopted city of Sacramento, California.

My real hometown, Cuyapo in Nueva Ecija, does one better. It breathes life from moment to moment.

A stirring rural anthology, starring real people unfolded before me during my trip to Cuyapo last month.

The boy who endured our juvenile pranks is now the town mayor on his third and last term.

The Genticar trio no longer sings, silenced by death.

The local thug, reformed but ravaged by illness, is very much alive.

The *calesa* has bowed out to the *kuliglig*.

The phone—both cell and regular—and cable television are ordinary.

The town square features a freshly erected monument, not to Benigno Aquino Jr.—the hero—but to a living faith healer.

The old numbers game thrives as ever.

Hizzoner

Amado Corpus Jr. would wail his heart out when we, his uncles, would slurp on the "ice candies" he peddled and hold out paying for the longest time.

Jung, as he is fondly called, told me he got into politics at 17 as the youth delegate to the town council. In between college, he served as town councilor until the political kingpins of Nueva Ecija, the Josons, tapped him to be their mayoral candidate before he reached 30.

When he won his first term, Hizzoner changed the face of the town hall, taking away many visages, including the wooden swing in front—scene of his character building bouts with us.

The Genticar

Jung will be past 40 and will end his term come the next local elections, but not after leaving a legacy to Cuyapeños, by way of paved roads, new edifices, including mountaintop telecom relay towers and a political style reminiscent of my mother's admonition to treat the little people nice.

Uncle Tito—the remnant, the "ti" of the Genticar Trio is approaching 60—a forlorn figure left to warble "Adios Mariquita Linda" on occasion. A second cousin of my dad's, the gentleman has remained a bachelor all these years, finding no inspiration I suppose from the love songs the Genticar sang from the heart.

Oh how I loved to hear the Genticar make lilting music together. In my youth, the trio of Genny Olog, and cousins Tito and Carlos Cachuela was a perennial loser in amateur singing nights.

Yet it was the toast of wakes and the star of impromptu gatherings spiced by the spirit of San Miguel.

The toughie

Erstwhile toughie Manuel "Sardinas" Velasco, still manages to draw a crowd willing to hear of his hell-raising days and expertise in penology.

I remember Sardinas as a handsome man with biceps hefty as Popeye's when munching spinach. If looks could kill, he would have mowed down our gang of cousins with his piercing eyes when we were young.

Now reed-thin, blind in one eye and held together by a cane—he strains to keep his chin up in a show of street braggadocio that refuses to die. But at 66, he admits privately that his bout with diabetes ranks as the biggest donnybrook of his life.

The 'kuliglig'

A quarter of a century ago, the town proper, known as the *paradahan*, teemed with people only on Sundays for the weekend *tienda*.

Today, people of all shapes and sizes come out of the woodwork on a daily basis. Navigating the maze of humanity are the ubiquitous pedicabs and a new mode of transport.

It appears that the elegant *calesa* has fallen by the wayside, to a contraption called *"kuliglig."*

Spewing gas fumes while carrying 10 passengers at the most, the *kuliglig* is actually a Kubota tiller put to profitable use after harvest. Rather than keep it idle, farmers have fashioned a carriage for the machine to pull and haul off barrio folk to town.

The *kuliglig* adds more damage to the ozone, along with the smoke belched by cars, buses and pedicabs, and from the burning of leaves and thrash.

Texting Mecca

If Los Angeles is the freeway capital of the world, the Philippines must be the texting Mecca. It appears that in Cuyapo and everywhere in the archipelago, everyone lives and dies by the cell phone.

I have witnessed my sports editor-friends text and get text nonstop. In our neck of the woods, *palay* (unmilled rice) dealers text current grain prices to each another.

Students text homework notes back and forth. Housewives swap recipes by text. Even a call to gather at sundown for cocktails at someone's veranda or under the *dapdap* tree is text to the usual suspects.

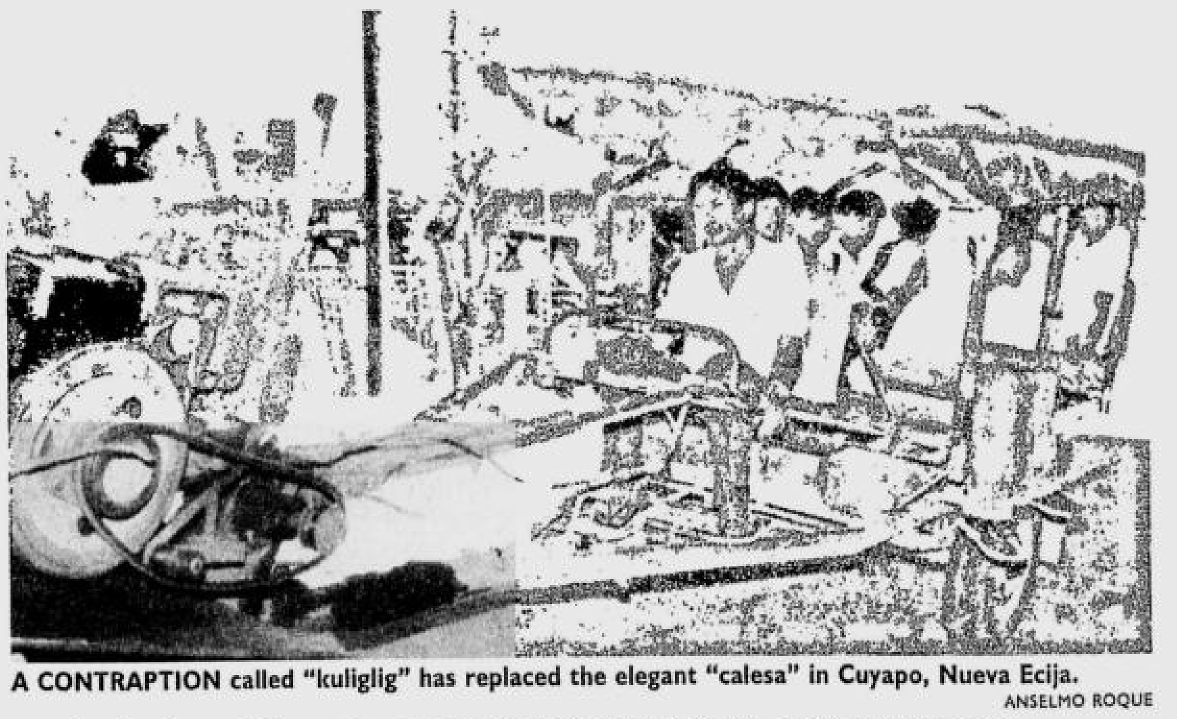
I heard that on the islands, most cell phones are mainly used for texting, since actual calls, both incoming and outgoing, cost 10 times as much. Cell phones, it seems, outnumber the land-based lines. My dad has a bias against the cell because his children in the States reach out and touch him through the conventional phone near the altar.

It is hard to imagine that phones have conquered Cuyapo. But with most telephone companies staking claims region by region—and with telecom towers adorning Mount Bulalay, one of two Cuyapo peaks—it was inevitable that the town would accept the convenience the phone offers.

The faith healer

If the universe has been drawn closer by the phone, it has shrunk even more because of cable television. From the comfort of my sister's grass shack behind the ancestral house, I had a thrill watching my Sacramento Kings live as they beat the Los Angeles Lakers.

Cuyapo's town square—the *presidencia* (town hall) as centerpiece and the Catholic Church and Bulalay as backdrop—is pleasing to the eye. Yet, if photographed for posterity, the view would be a postcard from the edge.



A CONTRAPTION called "kuliglig" has replaced the elegant "calesa" in Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija. ANSELMO ROQUE

A monument to a faith healer spoils the balance.

The Ninoy Aquino Freedom Park bears no monument to the fallen martyr. But on semi-manicured ground behind the hero's corner stands a huge bust of Alex Orbito.

Orbito is a former photographer's mate at a studio on Quezon Avenue, Cuyapo's main drag. By a stroke of fate, he has become one of the most sought-after psychic healers in the world.

Even Shirley MacLaine, the Hollywood actress may have unwittingly fattened Orbito's wallet by featuring the "Reverend" in her best selling book, "Going Within."

For book hunters, Maclaine's piece is subtitled "A Guide for Inner Transformation" and tackles issues such as self-meditation and psychic surgery.

Why Orbito merits a statue and not Aquino, beats me. Town managers shrug and laugh off the question. Cuyapo is rife with speculation that the monument is a harbinger, that by political sleight of hand, Orbito would pull a Ramon Labo Jr. (Faith healer Labo was elected and then unseated as mayor of Baguio City).

Meantime, Orbito critics are having a field day.

They say that although Orbito appears to be flush with cash, he doesn't give a hoot about Cuyapo. He has built the Pyramid of Asia, a resort-cum-center for his worldwide followers, in a pilgrimage town of Manaoag in Pangasinan.

But his detractors say he has done nil even for his own barrio. They love to single out the road to Nagcularan, which they claim resembles a lunar landing site.

The pundits say the Orbito monument is a crying shame that cries out for national authorities to probe.

The numbers game

Policemen, who say *jueteng* has been stomped, ought to have their heads examined. The archaic numbers game is alive and well in Cuyapo. If it thrives in my hometown—it follows that *jueteng* prospers in countless towns of the archipelago.

While in Cuyapo, I ventured to wager a few pesos without expecting to win, if only to help out the *kubradores* (collectors) who have been town fixtures since I was a kid.

I have always admired these foot soldiers of the illicit game. Although they lead almost mendicant lives, their spirit remains high, and their enthusiasm remains rabid for people who bet.

On a wing and a prayer, they hope that someone among their customers would hit big, and partake of the pot in *porciento* and the *balato* from winners.

One *kubrador* and his family, dirt poor since my wonder years, have found a fresh but wearisome way to bring rice on the table.

From the wee hours until the break of dawn, they would appear at grain *bodegas*, painstakingly scooping measly amounts of palay from the pavement and the ground. They have unearthed a treasure from the crumbs of a previous day's transaction by the rice barons.

My daily walk around town usually takes me to the neighborhood of the rice gleaners. The *kubador's* brood brightened my day with smiles as they weaned the grain from the chaff of a few kilos of palay—a bounty by their standards.

If I could walk away from the workaday world without looking back, I'd be home in Cuyapo walking about town, smelling the rotten air and recording stories of faith healers and *kubradores*.

For now, I am content with the thought that during my short visit, death visited but good times also rolled.

In one corner of my mind, the *kuliglig* roars and the Genticar trio sings again.

Veteran sportswriter ***Percy D. Della*** *is now based in Sacramento, California, where he works as public information officer for the California Energy Commission. After more than 20 years of self-exile in the US, he went home to Cuyapo last month to bury his mother.*

'Demolition man' is key

From page A1

"We want to extract as much information as possible, particularly his possible links with the al-Qaida network," Maralit said at the PNP headquarters in Camp Crame where Al-Ghozi is held.

A team of police, immigration and military officers arrested Al-Ghozi in Quiapo, Manila, just before he was to fly to Bangkok.

Behind the mask

"He may be the most innocent looking guy in the world but behind that innocent façade is a very, very dangerous one," Maralit said.

Sporting a well-trimmed goatee and flashing a boyish smile, the Indonesian was recently presented at a news conference where officials linked him to a series of Manila bombings on Dec. 30, 2000 that left more than a dozen people dead.

Al-Ghozi's arrest led to the seizure of a ton of explosives capable of leveling a block of buildings, 17 M-16 rifles, 300 units of detonators and several rolls of cords.

According to authorities, the explosives and weapons were to be used for attacks in Southeast Asian countries.

Singapore authorities last month detained 13 suspected terrorists linked to al-Qaida who were allegedly plotting to blow up a busload of American sailors and mount bomb attacks on Australian, British, Israeli and US embassies.

Information taken from the suspects led to the arrests of Al-Ghozi and others in the Philippines.

The arrests in Singapore and the Philippines and a similar crackdown in Malaysia gave a glimpse of the extent of al-Qaida's network in Southeast Asia.

Cross-border

Al-Ghozi's arrest and his links have raised eyebrows among leaders and diplomats.

"We are very concerned over his arrest," a Western diplomat based in Manila said. "It is a concern when you see that cross-border networks are working against governments in the region."

A suspected bomb maker and explosives trainer for the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, Al-Ghozi has not objected to charges in court of illegal possession of firearms and explosives, Maralit said.

Al-Ghozi faces additional charges of multiple murder, owing to his link to the deadly Light Rail Transit bombings in Manila.

Al-Ghozi told Philippine authorities that he was recruited into the Jemaah Islamiyah by one of several Singaporeans now under police custody in the city-state.

He claimed the explosives seized in General Santos City "were actually meant to be shipped to Malaysia and then to Singapore," Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo said.

Thirteen suspected terrorists detained in Singapore have also identified Al-Ghozi as one of several foreigners they had worked with.

Al-Ghozi allegedly helped the group make video recordings of potential targets, including offices of US companies as well as the American, Australian, British and Israeli embassies.

A son of a politician, Al-Ghozi had studied at a school run by an Indonesian cleric accused of being the Jemaah Islamiyah's mastermind. He attended college in Pakistan.

The Indonesian cleric, Ustad Abu Bakar Ba'asyir, denied during police questioning in Jakarta that he was associated with al-Qaida even as he hailed Bin Laden as "a true Muslim fighter."

Security steps

Blair said he was satisfied with the security measures taken by Singapore to protect US forces and businessmen following the discovery of the Islamic extremist plot to attack American targets.

Blair was responding to a newsman's query about a report by the respected Jane's Intelligence Review that Southeast Asia could become the last bastion of the al-Qaida following its decimation in Afghanistan and other parts of the world.

The Hawaii-based admiral, who commands all American forces in the Asia-Pacific theater, said he also had discussions with American businessmen based in Singapore.

"They feel as do I that while no place is completely safe, the measures taken by Singapore have been very effective and this is a safe place as any to do business," he said.

"I can tell you that from the point of view of our sailors and Marines visiting Singapore, we feel that good security is in place," Blair said. *AFP*

CONSIDERED most intriguing among the suspected terrorists recently arrested, Fathur Rohman Al-Ghozi, is now held at Camp Crame.

PR firm hiring pays off; GMA on media blitz

From page A1

Pressed on who the actual contributors are, Dee said: "Because I was not asked, I don't know who."

Critics have been demanding the disclosure of the identities of the financiers of B&M. They have raised the question whether the moneybags would be accorded special treatment by the government and distort the level playing field.

The B&M contract was reportedly meant to cover President Macapagal's publicity requirements during her eight-day travel to the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States.

Whoever is paying is getting his money's worth to benefit the President.

Media blitz

Her international media blitz goes on high-gear with a meeting with the New York Times editorial board on Thursday and interviews with CNN and Fox News on Friday. On the same day she will lunch with media fellows of the World Economic forum.

Ms Macapagal's media handlers, according to an INQ7.net source, "would have also wanted her on Larry King's show." It was not known why the plan did not push through.

The President's schedule released by Malacañang indicated she was holding a press conference daily. But there was none of the media forums with a "bring-along media delegation" that was shown live to Manila during her US state visit in November.

There was no mention, too, of her Saturday TV show "May Gloria Sa Bukas Mo," which aired on delayed telecast from the US last November. She will be in New York by Saturday, Feb. 2.

Ms Macapagal had a press briefing for the Philippine media upon arrival in London on Monday, and a press briefing for British media on Tuesday before leaving for Ottawa, Canada.

She will give press interviews again in Toronto, Canada, before leaving for New York on Wednesday.

Ms Macapagal had confirmed her media handler had hired a public relations firm but made it clear its purpose was to promote the country to investors, "not to polish her global image."

Out of the loop

Back home Cabrera is left to answer questions he cannot answer. On Monday, he claimed he had been out of the loop when the decision was made to hire B&M. So, he doesn't know how much the government is chipping in and what particular office is giving out the money.

"If there are people willing to help, we welcome the help," said Cabrera who appeared to be slightly embarrassed.

Good for business

Dee said the practice of hiring international PR firms was standard during previous administrations with the financial backing of businessmen whom he said even did more.

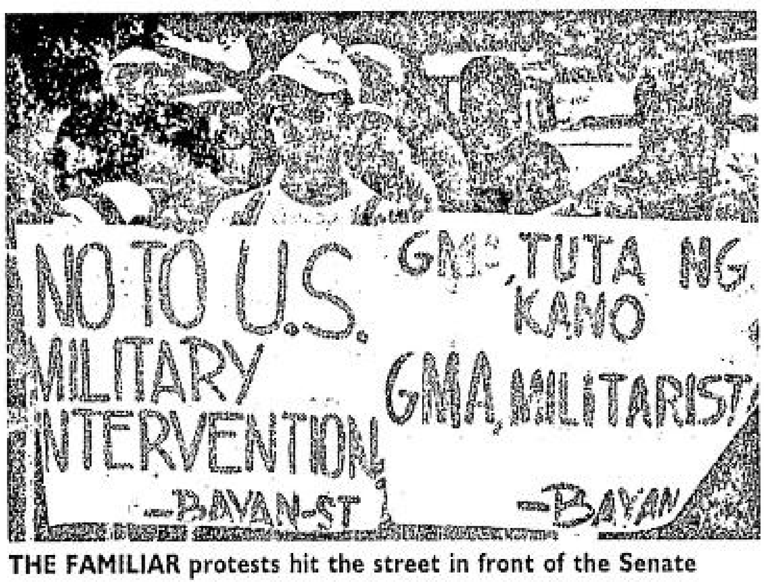
Businessmen would buy advertising space in newspapers in countries visited by Ms Macapagal's predecessors, according to Dee.

However, President Macapagal had refused the same assistance because "this President is more aware, careful about this," Dee explained.

Dee said businessmen didn't see anything wrong if the PR contract involved buffing up the personal image of Ms Macapagal because this would reflect on the country itself.

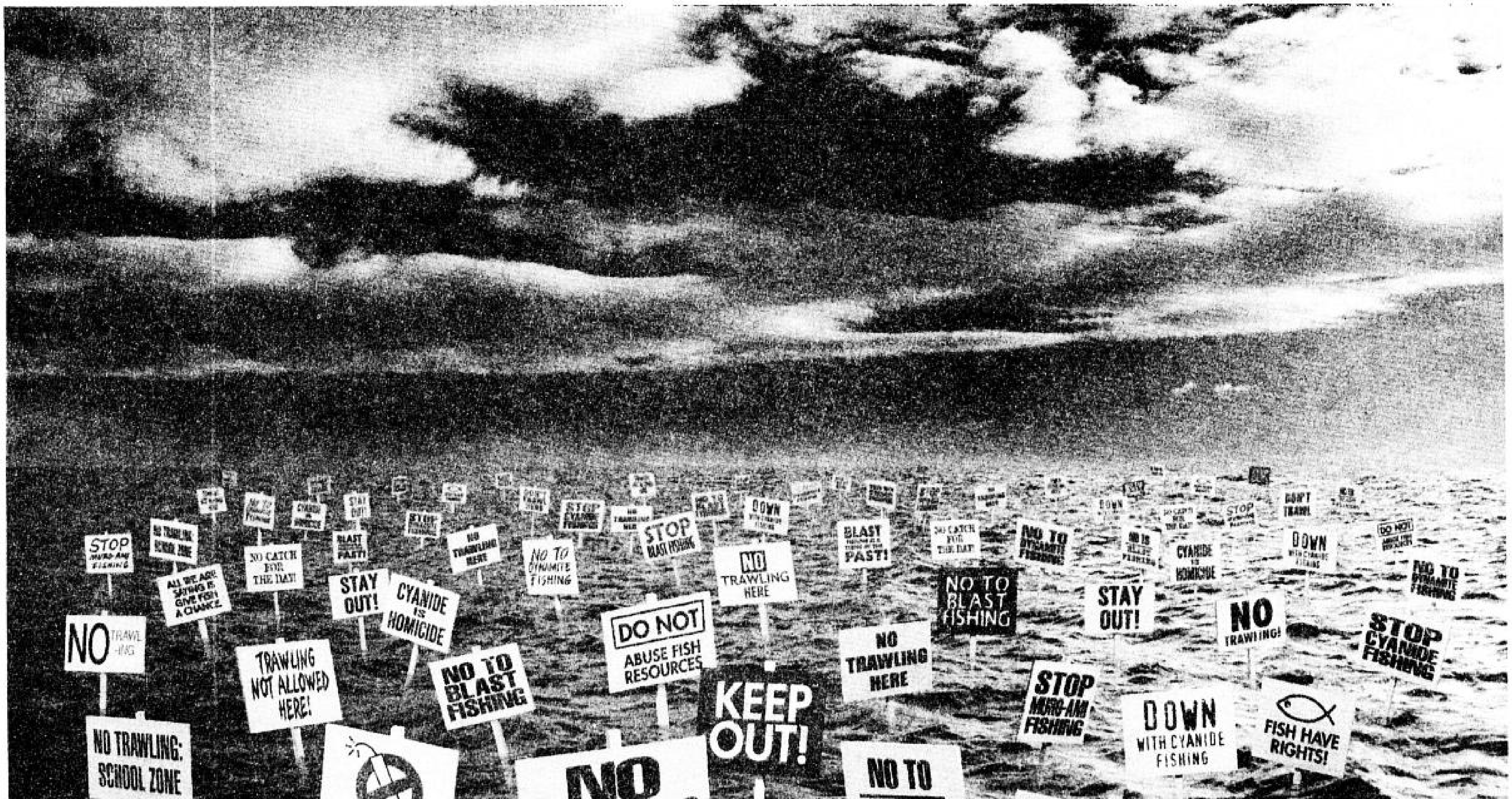
Dee stressed that the business sector's bottom line was actually simple.

"We don't need to advertise if business is good ... In fairness to the business community, if the country has a good image, this is good for business. So, I must admit that there is some amount of self-interest in that," he said.


NO TO U.S. MILITARY INTERVENTION -BAYAN-ST
GMA TUTA NG KANO
GMA, MILITARIST! -BAYAN

THE FAMILIAR protests hit the street in front of the Senate building, this one coming from the Bayan group. JESS YUSON

This space was provided by Philippine Daily Inquirer, a Corporate Partner of WWF-Philippines. INQUIRER



FISH RALLY. A massive protest action is being held in Philippine waters against the harm caused by illegal and destructive fishing practices. The organisers need your support. Donate to WWF now by calling 433 3222.

Balikatan war games finally start tomorrow

(From page A1)

porters by phone that the opening rites would be held tomorrow morning, and that Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva might be in attendance.

Cimatu said the go-signal for the formal opening of "Balikatan 02-1" was given around 3:30 p.m. yesterday, after Brig. Gen. Donald Wurster, commander of the 660-strong US contingent, arrived in the country.

The cargo plane bearing Wurster and 11 other Americans landed around 2:35 p.m. at the Edwin Andrews Air Base in Zamboanga City.

Earlier in the day, AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan said at the Mindanow news forum at the Philippine Information Agency that the opening rites would be held "in a few days."

"Nothing will happen without mutual action," he said. "This is the reason why the opening of the Balikatan was postponed. The US side had to clear something with their superiors in the Pacific Fleet, which, incidentally, is based in Hawaii."

Adan stressed that it was only the opening ceremony that was postponed. He said the actual exercise would still push through as scheduled in the second week of February.

Later at a press briefing, Adan was evasive on the issue and said he was not present when the postponement was discussed Monday by the US and Philippine panels.

"Both sides know the changes, but I was not informed about the changes," he said in Taglish, adding that he was not privy to the talks led by Brig. Gen. Emmanuel Teodosio, commander of the Philippine forces participating in the Balikatan.

"(Teodosio) told me they were minor details," he added.

Adan also reiterated that the protest actions against the Balikatan had nothing to do with the postponement of the opening ceremony.

But Teodosio supposedly told a defense reporter the other night that one of the reasons for the postponement was the mounting protests, which, he said, were what prompted the Philippine side to propose some changes in the "terms of reference" of the military exercise.

Teodosio also supposedly cited the objections of Sen. Rodolfo Biazon as one of the factors that prompted the changes.

The general could not be contacted yesterday for confirmation.

Among friends

But in a report by the Associated Press, Teodosio said the difficulty that had threatened to delay the exercise had been "resolved."

"This can be done among friends," he said while standing beside Wurster. Neither officer explained the sudden switch in plans. Wurster refused to answer reporters' questions.

AP quoted Teodosio as saying that US officials did not want a specific limit on the number of Americans who could be involved in the Balikatan.

"They were apprehensive that if we peg a certain fixed number (on US troops), they will lose flexibility," he said. "But we were able to resolve it."

Cimatu told defense reporters that the opening ceremony would be held despite the kinks in the terms of reference.

He said these problems could be worked out during the period between the opening and the start of the six-month exercise next month.

He refused to say what the problems were, and described these as "only minor items" that "were not spelled out."

Adan said the terms of reference could mean the deployment of US troop or operational decisions.

Defense Secretary Reyes bluntly said he would rather not discuss the issue.

Asked what the "minor" changes were, Reyes said: "It's just some matters in the terms of reference that would have to be discussed and clarified. It's still being discussed. We have to discuss it, so I would rather not discuss it."

Both Reyes and Adan said the formal training had been scheduled to start on the first or second week of February. Reyes said he saw nothing that could impede or hamper it.

Where to sleep, etc.

US Embassy spokesperson Karen Kelly said logistical preparations and simple but important issues got in the way of the formal opening of the Balikatan.

In a phone interview with the INQUIRER, Kelly listed these issues as "where to sleep, where to get water, where to eat, where to source the materials needed in what type of training."

"Logistical preparations were not yet in place," she said. "For example, there will not be enough room for everybody because 150 trainers are coming in at one time."

Asked whether it was the host country that should provide these logistics, Kelly said there was no "clear-cut" policy on the matter.

"Who will be bringing in what has yet to be resolved," she said. "The US government would like to ensure that the military exercise will not be a drain on the resources of the (AFP), so we will try to find out how we can supplement things and resources needed in the exercise."

Kelly said these practicalities were not as yet a problem because the advance parties only ran up to 60 US soldiers on the ground.

"Anytime soon, at least 150 trainers are coming in at one time," she said. "The common expectation is that all of the 660 troops aboard military aircraft will land at one time. No. Depending on how long the modules will be applied, people will be coming and going."

She said that while the US troops would total about 600 at the peak of the military exercise, that number excluded the Filipino soldiers who would also be housed during the entire training period.

Kelly also said the US troops would not be assigned to a single location but to "several designated areas of exercise."

She said the two governments found it wise to postpone the formal opening of the military exercise until preparations had been completed.

"Both governments believe it would be impractical to stop in the middle of exercises because they lack materials necessary for the training, or people have no room to sleep in," she said.

But Kelly could not say how long the delay would take.

Ritual

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said the postponement of the formal opening should not be seen as a result of the campaign against the Balikatan.

Speaking at the Bulong Pulungan forum at the Westin Philippine Plaza, Golez said the ceremony was just a "formal ritual" on the part of the two governments.

TIGHTLY GUARDED international airport for the arrival on Tuesday of the US troops aboard a C-17 Globemaster III.

DENNIS SABANGAN

He appealed to militant groups to "tone down the rhetoric, stop the burning of flags, and just bring the matter to the Supreme Court."

He said these groups should recognize the constitutionality of and the "overwhelming" public support for the Balikatan.

But even Golez was clueless that the delay had been resolved. He said the formal rites would be held within the next few days, once "procedural and purely technical matters" had been ironed out.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said the postponement would give more time to the Philippines and the United States to review and adjust the terms of reference.

Biazon, vice chair of the Senate committee on national defense and security, said there was still no official document to define the terms of reference on the following issues:

- The command relationship between Filipino and American commanders at the tactical level.
- The level of response that American units and troops might be allowed if they came under attack.
- Whether the Americans would be allowed to accompany Filipino units in combat patrol.
- The type of weapons to be used by American troops.

State of the art

More than 200 US troops have arrived in Zamboanga City, bringing with them state-of-the-art equipment.

At a press briefing yesterday, Maj. Cynthia Terramae, public affairs director of the US Pacific Command, denied that the American forces had brought in bombs, as claimed in some newspaper reports.

Biazon had earlier sought an inquiry into the bombs that the Americans allegedly transported.

Biazon was quoted as saying in one report that he had seen a video clip taken in Cebu showing the bombs.

But Terramae said only the equipment necessary for the training exercise was being brought in.

"We are only continuing with our logistics and supply support to create work centers and to prepare facilities that will help (pave) a smooth transition for the rest of our team when they arrive," she said.

Terramae confirmed that the rest of the 660 Americans participating in the Balikatan would be arriving next week.

Earlier, another C-17 cargo plane bearing 17 US servicemen and heavy equipment landed at the Zamboanga International Airport. A C-130 plane also landed at Edwin Andrews around 1:15 p.m. with six American soldiers on board.

Military officials said most of the heavy equipment would be used for clearing the training areas. ***With reports from Norman Bordadora, Cynthia D. Balana and Christian V. Esguerra in Manila; Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau; AP***

Foreign media . . .

(From page A1)

foreign journalists had arrived in Zamboanga City.

Maj. Noel Detoyato, spokesperson of the Philippine military's Southern Com-mand, confirmed that the foreign journalists had been lured by reports on the supposed war.

"What they actually thought was that war was raging in Zamboanga and Basilan," he said in Filipino. "They thought it was like Afghanistan now."

Detoyato said some of the foreign journalists were so dismayed to discover nothing spectacular in the US deployment that they had already flown out.

Kyle Eppler, an NBC reporter based in New York, said what had triggered speculations in the giant network was the refusal of US officials to clarify the large deployment of US forces.

Eppler said NBC had repeatedly tried to contact American officials in an effort to get more information on the decision to send a big number of US troops to Mindanao, but that they did not even return calls.

Francesca Carreon of the NHK Japan Broadcasting Corp. said that during one of their planning meetings, it was reported that Zamboanga had turned into a war zone.

"(Some media outfits) sent their war correspondents from Pakistan and Afghanistan, but when they reached Zamboanga they found out that the report (on the situation) was somewhat exaggerated," Carreon said.

Japanese freelance journalist Yukichika Muruyama said it was the same report that sent him to the Philippines.

"(But) it all turned out very peaceful," Muruyama said. "Initially, I thought that (Basilan was), you know, somehow in a war. But as soon as I set my foot on Basilan, it was all peaceful, except for some soldiers you see around."

Strange

Earlier, an Indian journalist working for the Hong Kong office of an international news agency said it was the unusual number of US forces to be deployed that had drawn the international media.

"I found it quite strange. Imagine, they will conduct a purely training exercise in an area where there are enemies," he said.

Pekka Mykkanen of the Finnish daily Helsingin Sanomat aired a similar view.

Adan aired a warning that they should not pay for interviews with the Abu Sayyaf, saying this would be in violation of Philippine laws.

And if they are kidnapped by the bandit group, they should not even think of paying ransom because this will mean that they are "assisting terrorists," he said.

Adan said the AFP would come up with guidelines to ensure security and to prevent a recurrence of the abduction of and subsequent payment of ransom for some journalists who were covering the Sipadan hostage crisis in 2000.

"There were more than a hundred foreign journalists as of yesterday in Zamboanga City, and we can't keep track of them everywhere they go," Adan said.

"Boats may capsize—these are things of concern because we would be rescuing them and employing our troops to track them down," he said.

He warned that "they must not go too far out, away from the capability of our troops to provide security."

"If they do that, they will be on their own," he said. ***With a report from Martin P. Marfil in Manila***

THE ARRIVAL of US troops from Japan is an event for this father and his child, at the Zamboanga International Airport.

DENNIS SABANGAN

FILIPINO officer escorts American guests.

DENNIS SABANGAN

Zambo folk hail US soldiers as liberators

(From page A1)

The gunmen walked free 48 hours later in exchange for the hostages, who are now among the staunchest supporters of the US troop deployment.

"We believe that the presence of American forces and the help they can give to our military will really help solve the local terrorism problem," Bue said.

The 36-year-old reporter also heads a pro-American civic group that now boasts about 300 members. Business groups have asked his group to help organize a grand welcome for the US troops next week.

There is strong support for US troops in Mindanao because many people have been "suffering" from the actions of the Abu Sayyaf, according to Archbishop Orlando Quevedo of the Archdiocese of Cotabato City.

An independent polling firm yesterday said a huge majority of Filipinos approved of US military help in fighting terrorism in the country.

A nationwide survey conducted by the Social Weather Stations on Nov. 3-21 last year found that 84 percent approved of US military assistance and 16 percent disapproved.

The polling firm did not disclose the size of its sample and the margin of error. Its findings were presented at a forum sponsored by a Manila-based think tank.

William Henry Lash II, US Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Market Access and Compliance, said "the military presence of our advisers and trainers is all designed to help the Philippines become the safe environment that it wished to become."

Lash said Filipinos "wanted a stable environment to attract capital and investment which will help alleviate poverty."

"Investors and capital flow to areas, which are safe and have a stable, predictable environment," Lash said in a press conference in Manila.

While the US advisers are now confined to camp at this early phase of their mission, their presence is already palpable downtown.

Shoppers have returned and business has picked up, with many saying they feel safe venturing out even at night.

"We hardly get to see them, but we know they are there and we feel safe," said the clerk Lopez, speaking above the din of a jam-packed shop selling mobile phones and pirated video compact discs.

She is distracted by a customer, but then lifts her face and smiles: "I heard there are also good looking ones too."

Pharmacist Rizza Narita says she can now sleep at night peacefully, aware that American troops would likely come to the city's aid if it came under fresh attack.

"They are ready to help us, I am sure of that," she said.

Bue, the journalist, said many residents were drawing comparisons between these 21st century US soldiers with American servicemen who liberated the Philippines from brutal Japanese occupation in World War II.

"We look at them as our liberators from the bondage of terrorism," he said.

"We have been repeatedly terrorized before and we do not want to be terrorized again."

But not everyone is jumping for joy.

Some residents, especially those living near the headquarters of the Southern Command, dread getting caught in any crossfire.

"I have heard rumors that Muslims may attack because this (the US deployment) means war," said Rhod Lawag. "I hope that doesn't happen, because if the Americans are defeated and leave, they (their foes) would turn on us." *AFP*

NPA warns American troops they are targets

(From page A1)

US troops. This is the real intention of President Macapagal-Arroyo and his spokesperson Bobi Tiglao," Sison said in Taglish in a reply to questions e-mailed to him.

But he said protesters could resort to both mass and legal actions.

Militant groups vowed to continue their mass actions despite the postponement of the war games.

The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) hailed the postponement of the Balikatan exercises as a tactical victory, but vowed to intensify protests until US troops withdraw from Mindanao.

"Though they may not admit it, Malacañang was forced to make a tactical retreat because of mounting public opposition and glaring divisions within the Macapagal administration," Bayan spokesperson Renato M. Reyes Jr. said.

Reyes said Bayan, the youth group Anakbayan and the League of Filipino Students would hold protest actions today in front of the US Embassy in Manila.

Members of the National Union of Students of the Philippines (NUSP) will also stage a rally at the embassy today.

"The delay of the war games won't stop us from staging growing protests against the deployment of US troops in the country and the 'red-carpet' welcome that is being given to US troops via the Mutual Logistics Support Agreement (MLSA)," said NUSP president Cristina Palabay.

She said the protest action would also commemorate the First Quarter Storm in the '70s, when students staged massive protests against the administration of then President Ferdinand Marcos.

The Kilusang Mayo Uno said its members would work harder to prevent the Balikatan from being implemented.

Torch rally

KMU Secretary General Elmer Labog said his group would launch a torch rally from the National Cathedral of the Child on Taft Avenue in Manila to the US Embassy on Feb. 2.

Workers are set to mark on Feb. 2 the 100th founding anniversary of the Union Obrero Democratica, the first labor union established in the country.

Bayan dubbed as "proof of the government's puppetry and mendicancy" the admission of military spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan that the postponement was due to the absence of "terms of reference" on the conduct of the military exercises being sought by the US.

"It is quite bizarre that it is the US which is seeking clear terms of reference and not the government which hosts and foots the bill for these exercises," Reyes said.

"The government looks even sillier since it now appears that the much-vaunted Visiting Forces Agreement does not cover the details of the conduct of these exercises. Perhaps, the Macapagal administration is now in the process of concocting something in order to justify US intervention," he said.

For Bayan, nothing short of the immediate and unconditional pullout of US troops will stop the street protests.

"The deferment may be seen as a tactical victory but the long-term goal is still the pullout of US troops and a stop to any attempt to reestablish US military presence through the MLSA. The fight is far from over as far as we're concerned," Reyes said.

Despite the announcement postponing the military exercises, US troops and war materiel continued to land in Zamboanga.

"The fact that the US troops are still here means the exercises will continue. The government is merely ironing out its defense of the Balikatan," Reyes said.

Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran said the postponement of the joint US-RP Balikatan exercises was a welcome development.

Shaken

"But instead of just a postponement, the Balikatan should be permanently scrapped. There are countless anomalies in this issue with the legal matters the least of them. This administration will be shaken to its very foundations if it insists on allowing the Americans to conduct their military exercises and operations in the Philippines," Beltran said.

Beltran said that cover-ups were being done left and right to ram in the Balikatan.

"For instance, the justice department took advantage of the broad provisions of the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement to justify the presence of US forces in Mindanao in the absence of an approved revised MDT work plan. To some extent, the justice department and the Office of the President were also pressured to support and approve the military activities because the Americans had started arriving in the country," he said.

The Philippine Independent Church (PIC) is also condemning US intervention in the country's internal affairs.

Rev. Pastor Ronnie Abrera said the PIC's network nationwide was preparing a statement against the presence of US troops in Mindanao.

Abrera said the PIC would embark on an information campaign to enlighten their people about this controversial issue.

In Cotabato City, a proposed resolution opposing the presence of American troops in Mindanao was the subject of a heated debate in the Regional Legislative Assembly (RLA) of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

The resolution filed Monday by RLA Speaker Protempore Paisalin Tago of Lanao del Sur objected to the presence of US forces in Mindanao "whether for military exercise or combat activities."

"The deployment of such troops contravenes the spirit of national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country," Tago said.

But Minority Floor Leader Ismael Abubakar Jr. of Tawi-Tawi said Tago's opposition would close the door for other countries willing to assist the Philippines in resolving problems like peace and order. ***With reports from Norman Bordadora in Manila; Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; and, Charlie C. Señase and Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

ABENSON announces the Mitsubishi Adventure winner

The final draw of Abenson's Grand Adventure raffle promo happened last Saturday, January 26, 2002 at Walter Mart-Sta. Rosa. A day of celebration, the draw procedure was graced by recording artist Ms. Tootsie Guevarra.

The lucky winner of a brand new Mitsubishi Adventure GLX 2002 was drawn from thousands of entries, in addition to the winners of 15 major appliances. In the end, Ms. Ana Maria Gaspar of Pasay City was declared the official owner of the Mitsubishi Adventure.

As always, appliance seekers can expect more promo goodies from Abenson as the year proceeds. Abenson has more than 40 branches in Metro Manila and the nearby provinces to cater to your zest for value-loaded appliance shopping. Visit us now!

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Abenson Corporate Marketing Manager Engr. Benjie Bernardo, Area Manager (Laguna) Ms. Emy Jacinto, guest artist Ms. Tootsi Guevarra, and DTI rep. Ms. Lina Alcantara presided over the draw procedures.

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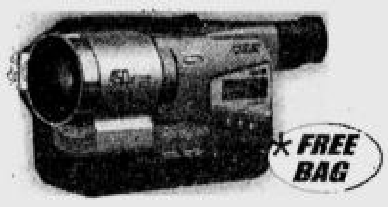

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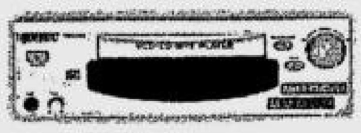

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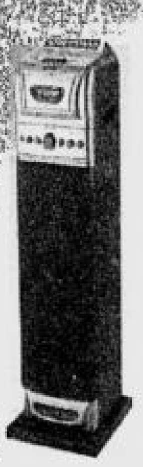

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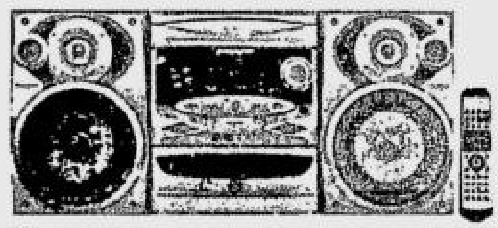

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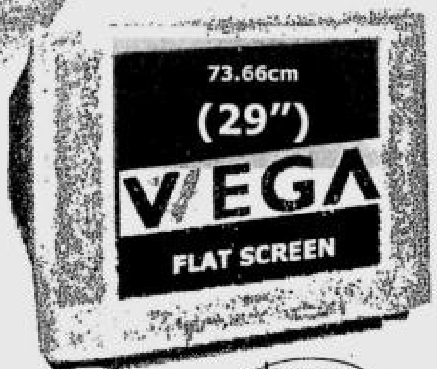

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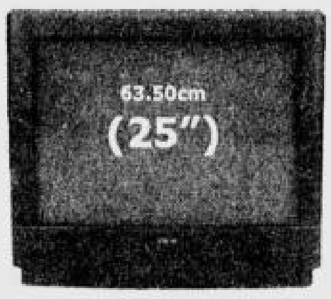

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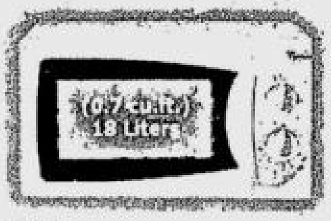

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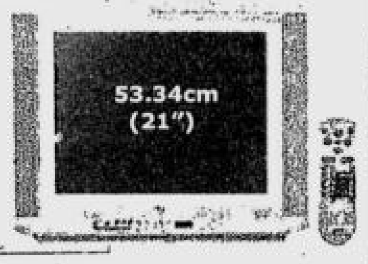

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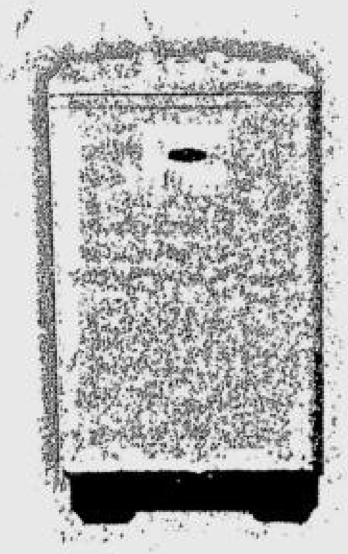

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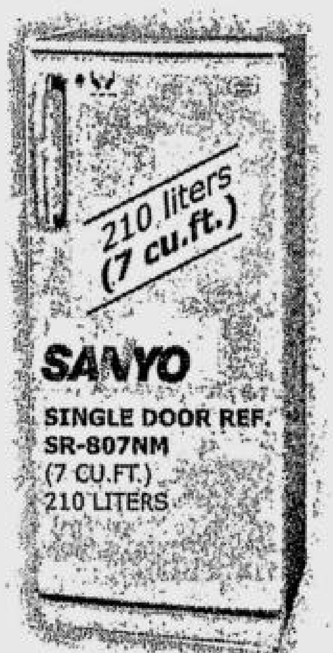

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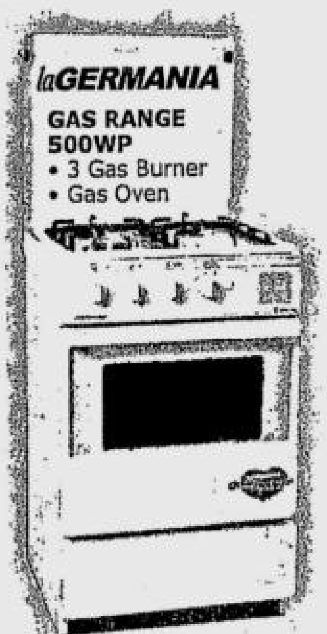

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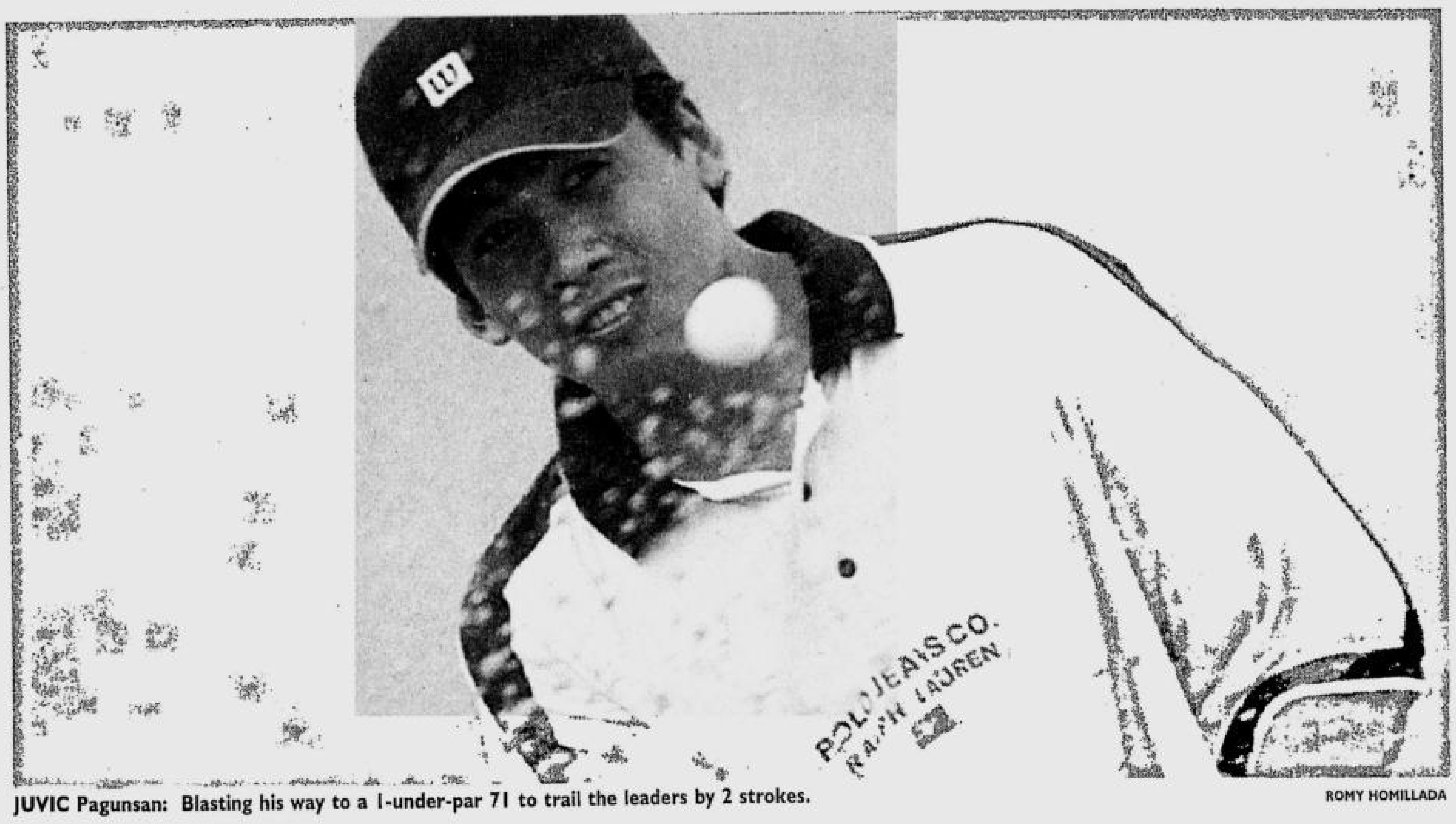


JUVIC Pagunsan: Blasting his way to a 1-under-par 71 to trail the leaders by 2 strokes. ROMY HOMILLADA

DHL-NGAP OPEN

Rocha, Dizon lead with 69s

CANLUBANG, Laguna—Juami Rocha and Marlon Dizon took the first round lead yesterday in the 7th DHL-NGAP Amateur Open at Canlubang North.

Rocha and Dizon shot similar three-under-par 69s to lead defending champion Juvic Pagunsan by two strokes and Philippine Amateur champion Angelo Que by four.

Former national player Cookie La'O shot a 70, tying Buboy Jaraula of Del Monte Golf Club.

The 25-year-old Rocha had nines of 35-34, birdieing the par-3 15th and 18 with a huge 20-foot putt.

Dizon, who was sidelined for four months due to a slight slip disc, missed holding the solo lead when he three-putted 18.

"I don't feel the pain anymore and I was striking the ball well," said Dizon.

Pagunsan appeared to be on track with a front-nine 33, following birdies on 2, 5 and 8. He went four-under with another birdie on the 10th but faltered with back-to-back bogeys from the 12th and another one after finding the water on 18 for nines of 33-38.

Que, who had nines of 38-35, got off to a slow start with a double-bogey on No. 2 and bogeys on 3 and 4.

Shooting 72 were Mari Hechanova (35-37) and Lyndon Barril (37-35) while tied with Que at 73 were Marvin Dumandan (37-36), Iggy Clavecilla (37-36), Marc Lopez (38-35) and Godofredo Sinfuego (34-39).

Concepcions top Bill Shaw Classic

ANGEL and Robert Concepcion shot 191 points to emerge overall champion in the recently-concluded 13th Annual Bill Shaw Memorial Golf Classic at the East and West courses of Wack Wack.

After compiling 131 points in the East course and 60 in the West, the Concepcions handily defeated Lucio Tan Jr. and Marvin Dy, who shot 206 points.

The Concepcions joined Jose Cojuangco Jr. and Reginald Peña in the winner's circle after the pair came out champions in Group I with 202 points.

Also rising above the occasion in the event sponsored by Tanduay Rhum, Taylor Made, Golforce, Herma Corp., Bingo Bonanza, Unilever, PNOC and Casino Filipino were Carlos Tuason and Juan Garcia.

Tuason, a former chair of the Philippine Sports Commission, and Garcia outdueled Richard Chua and Johnny Uy to capture the Group III championship title.

"Now we can relax," said Bones Floro, who backstopped Tonichi Tuason in ensuring the success of the tournament in honor of Wack Wack's founding father, Bill Shaw.

"We are overjoyed by the fact that our supporters made it all happen. Our members as well as their guests really had a grand time during the weekend. Our gratitude to our club president, Chair Ben Abalos, for his invaluable support in giving us a free hand in running the show together with Mr. Mabarosa."

Marlon Dizon and Miguel Tuason carded 224 as they collected the lowest gross score in the two-day tournament. Mitsubishi Motors Philippines, Toyota Motors Philippines Inc., Toyota Otis and SC Kymco Pilipinas were the hole-in-one sponsors of the event.

Robert Yang and Johnny Litton also shared the limelight as the pair trounced their respective rivals in Group II. Yang and Litton amassed 198 points to seize the title in their division.

Floro thanked the other sponsors—Phil. Sports Commission, Custom Clubmakers-KSG, Pacsports Phils. Inc., Performance Investments Product Corp., Discovery Suites, Citra Metro Tollways, Smart Communications, Inc., Samsung Electronics (Phils.) Corp., Pacific and Manufacturing Inc., Electrobus Consolidated Inc., lawyer Gilberto Duavit, Cantada Sports Center, GG&A Club Shares, SO Natural Supplement p.i. Inc., Miraclean Steam Laundry & Dry Cleaning Inc., Asia Brewery Inc., Splash Corp., Alternative Beverage Co. Inc. Haagen-Dazs Marketing & Distribution Phils. Inc., Cebu Plaza Hotel and Lacoste Sports Sunglasses which sponsored the nearest the pin on hole No. 8 east course. "Without their support along with our major sponsors, the success of this tournament would not have been possible," said Floro.

Jessa Zaragoza golf tomorrow

THE JESSA Zaragoza Birthday Golf Invitational will be held at Capitol Hills in Old Balara, Quezon City tomorrow, with over 50 celebrity guests seeing action.

The event, which is being held to celebrate Jessa's 23rd birthday, is an undertaking of the Ayala Heights Golfers and Friends Association headed by television director Al Quinn. It will also coincide with the press launch of Dingdong and Jessa… In Love.

"In stressful times, it's nice to unwind once in a while and just have fun. No pressure… just plain fun," said Jessa. For other details about the concert, call Artist Management Group at 433-3195.

CPJ Memorial taekwondo on Sunday

THE COUNTRY'S leading taekwondo-jins will vie for honors in the 2002 CPJ Memorial Championships on Sunday, Feb. 3, at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

According to Philippine Taekwondo Association president Robert N. Aventajado, the tourney will determine the members of the Philippine team for the current year.

Competition will be in five divisions—men, women, junior men, junior women and grade school.

PTA vice president Sung Chon Hong explains that jins seeking slots on the national team will be matched in various weight categories. The classweights for men and women are fin, fly, bantam, feather, light, welter, middle and heavy.

Competition in grade school will be conducted according to height and age in five categories. These are 9-11 years old, 4-2 to 4-5; 10-12, 4-5 to 4-8; 10-12, 4-6 to 4-10; 1113, 4-10 to 5-1/2; and 11-13, 4-1/2 to 5-4.

The other Erap (or is it the FPJ homecoming?)

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

LAST weekend, I was with the king of Philippine movies, Fernando Poe Jr. FPJ to his fans. Ronnie to many others. Manedyer to his buddies, such as poet Erwin Castillo and columnist nonpareil Recah Trinidad. Erap to his close friends, such as Joseph Ejercito Estrada and yours truly (ahem!).

What, you can't believe that? FPJ/Ronnie/Manedyer/Erap not a close friend of mine?

You gotta believe it, fellas. He's been a friend all this time. We go a long way, bebe. Do you know FPJ and I did a couple of San Miguel Beer commercials when Bata Reyes was still a nobody? But that's going ahead of the story.

My kumpadre, the former Rep. Teddy Cruz, had FPJ and me seated side by side on Saturday evening. Yes, you guessed it right. Occasion was the coronation of the town fiesta's queen, Camille 1. Da King crowned Queen Camille 1 after Cristina (the pretty wife of Mayor Nelson Cruz) and I had pinned the sash on beautiful Camille. It happened in my hometown, Mangatarem, Pangasinan. The king's hometown, too, in case you wanna know.

What, you can't believe that again? FPJ not a townmate of mine?

Listen to FPJ telling it to me: "You know, Erap, I have always considered myself a son of Mangatarem. My father loved it here."

Ah, his father. Fernando Poe Sr. was the model of national artist Guillermo Tolentino when Tolentino did The Oblation, UP-Diliman's towering, enduring symbol of campus freedom. Gosh, FPJ's father died of rabbies from a puppy bite. Gosh, he was only 35.

"He was a great swimmer at UP during his time," said FPJ of his father. "His own puppy was the culprit. Three days after my father got bitten, the pup and three other puppies died. After that tragedy, my brothers and sisters (they were six siblings) had anti-rabbies shots on our back. A total of 24 shots for each one of us! Done everyday. Ang sakit!"

FPJ's grandmother was born, raised and lived all her life in Mangatarem. FPJ's grandparents owned the town's first theater; my parents were the theater's first managers. The huge lot fronting the plaza, big enough to accommodate a mall a la SM Megamall, remains a Poe property.

"I used to have my vacations here when I was a kid," said he. "I have fond memories of this town. My grandmother always made sure I had a grand time whenever I vacationed here."

But during one such visit, when FPJ's star was fast rising, the town thugs spoiled his vacation. Kursunadahan, brod. One brat challenged FPJ and his late pal, Boy Sta. Romana, to a fistfight and that was it. Disappointed, FPJ never again set foot on his hometown.

It took decades before the vow would be broken.

All of the town's 82 barangays spilled into the auditorium to cheer his homecoming. When he strode into the plaza, the auditorium, large as a soccer field, was reduced by the onrushing throng into a virtual boxing arena. It wasn't until he had finished his business, until he had left at the break of dawn, that the auditorium was restored to its original size.

Early in the day, as the town waited with bated breath, so to speak, debating endlessly over whether he'd arrive or not, FPJ breezed by the town on his way to Lingayen, the capital of Pangasinan.

"I arrived in Lingayen at 7 a.m. to shoot some scenes at the provincial jail," he said. "Then I proceeded to San Carlos City before I came here."

Mayor Jolly Resuello of San Carlos also came to join us briefly at the auditorium.

"Da King keeps his word like a true gentleman," said Jolly, who became a dear friend the day the incorruptible Boni Sison introduced him to me almost two decades ago. "I know because he also calls San Carlos home. Three times, he has graced our city fiesta already."

FPJ went to Lingayen to complete shooting some jail scenes of his newest film "Batas ng Lansangan," with Dina Bonnevie as his leading lady.

"On Monday," FPJ said, "we'll shoot a scene in Cainta."

In case you still don't know, FPJ is also known as Ronwaldo Reyes, the noted director. Reyes is his grandmother's surname.

In her speech before the town council would hand FPJ a plaque of appreciation, Tessie Tuzon-Austria, the master of ceremonies, said: "We are honored to declare Fernando Poe Jr. an adopted son of Mangatarem."

The crowd burst into cheers.

When it was his turn to speak, FPJ said: "With due respect, I beg to disagree. I will not allow myself to be an adopted son of Mangatarem because I am a full-blooded son of Mangatarem."

The cheers that followed could be heard as far south as Camiling, Tarlac.

ABUNDO

Groups want Abundo back

THE COMMISSION on Higher Education (Ched) joined yesterday the Philippine Sportswriters Association (PSA) in endorsing Tisha Abundo to President Macapagal-Arroyo as commissioner of the Philippine Sports Commission.

The CHEd cited Ms Abundo for her "honesty, organizational ability and competence."

Abundo is founding president of the Federation of Higher Education Sports Association (FHESA), which staged the 2000 CHEd National Games.

The PRISAA-NCR, Iloilo Tertiary Schools Sports Association and the Philippine Basketball League have also acknowledged the role that Abundo played in the organization of youth sports programs.

Other sectors endorsing Abundo to the PSC post that she once held are the Philippine Association of Physical Educators Inc. (PAPE, whose membership includes regional chiefs and teachers of physical education and school sports of the Department of Education, the University of the Philippines College of Human Kinetics (UP CHK) and the St. Bridget School.

The principal of St. Bridget School, in her letter to Ms Macapagal-Arroyo said: "Her record of accomplishments as an athlete, a sports academician, organizer and dedicated worker… would add greatly in improving the quality of the Philippine sports program and achievements both in local and international competitions."

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1988, De La Salle-Zobel beat Silliman University, 2-0, to bag the Coke-Go For Goal football championship at the Ultra. Also today in 1989, Mario Siodina shot a 71 to post a one-stroke victory over Frankie Miñoza at the 1st President's Cup in Tarlac.

Grizzlies maul Clippers in OT, end losing skein

MEMPHIS, Tennessee—Stromile Swift scored six of his 22 points in overtime as the Memphis Grizzlies beat the Los Angeles Clippers, 119-115, yesterday and snapped a seven-game losing streak.

Pau Gasol added 23 points and 10 rebounds for his 17th double-double, and his 17th game of 20 or more points for the Grizzlies. Brevin Knight scored five points of his 19 points in overtime and also had a team season-high 15 assists and only one turnover.

Michael Olowokandi tied his career-high with 27 points, and Elton Brand added 26 for the Clippers, who started a seven-game road trip with a loss.

In Salt Lake City, Bryon Russell scored a season-high 20 points to break out of a shooting slump as Utah ended a three-game losing streak with a win over Miami.

Karl Malone, who battled foul trouble all game, scored 19 points and Jarron Collins shot 12-of-13 from the foul line for 18 points. The Jazz had lost five of six games, including back-to-back blowout losses to Sacramento.

Utah took advantage of the absence of an ill Alonzo Mourning to shoot 54.5 percent, a season-best mark for the Jazz and by a Heat opponent,

Rod Strickland scored 16 points and Eddie Jones had 12, but shot just 3-of-16 from the field for Miami, which lost for only the second time in its last nine games. **AP**

SBC 5 advances to quarterfinals

SAN BEDA College defeated Trinity College, 79-68, yesterday to advance in the quarterfinals of the National Capital Region eliminations for the 56th National Students Basketball Championships at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Arjun Cordero and Jerome Paterno scores 20 and 19 points, respectively for the Red Lions, who finished with a 2-1 record behind early qualifier Philippine School of Business Administration (3-0) in Group C.

In other games, San Sebastian College downed AMACU, 75-52, to lead Group D with 4-1 while Gregorio Araneta Foundation University outplayed Metro Manila College, 68-62, to improve its record to 2-1 in Group A.

College of St. Benilde, National University, Las Piñas College and San Sebastian have already booked quarterfinals slots in this tournament organized by the Basketball Association of the Philippines with support from the team owners of the National Basketball League headed by Christian Tan.

Ateneo downs La Salle, 2-1

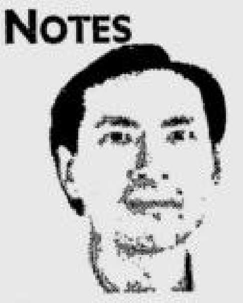
DEFENDING champion Ateneo de Manila defeated De La Salle, 2-1, last Sunday to join University of Santo Tomas in the finals of the University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP) men's tennis tournament at the Valle Verde Country Club outdoor courts.

The Blue Eagles nailed their sixth win courtesy of Neil Co over Paolo Olbes, 6-0, 6-0, and Francis Gerard Abacan over Johan Guba, 4-6, 6-4, 6-4. La Salle's Nico Faller and Andre Rommel Cruz won the doubles over Anthony Filamor and Stanley Ong, 6-2, 6-2.

UST improved its record to 8-1 after posting a 3-0 victory over University of the East. Plus Ocampo blasted Adrian Arcaya, 6-0, 6-0; Art Thomas Calingasan and Richard Somes downed Peter John Perpetua and Teddy Danao, 6-4, 6-0; and Gabby Remigio trounced Jerry Bernabe, 6-0, 6-4.

Literacy

NBA NOTES



Henry Liao

ENTERTAINERS Britney Spears, Alicia Keys and Lil' Bow Wow will be in the City of Brotherly Love for an NBA-sponsored hour-long television special "Read To Achieve Celebration" on NBA All-Star Saturday, Feb. 9 (Feb. 10, Manila time), that promotes the value of reading and online literacy and encourages families and adult to read regularly with young children.

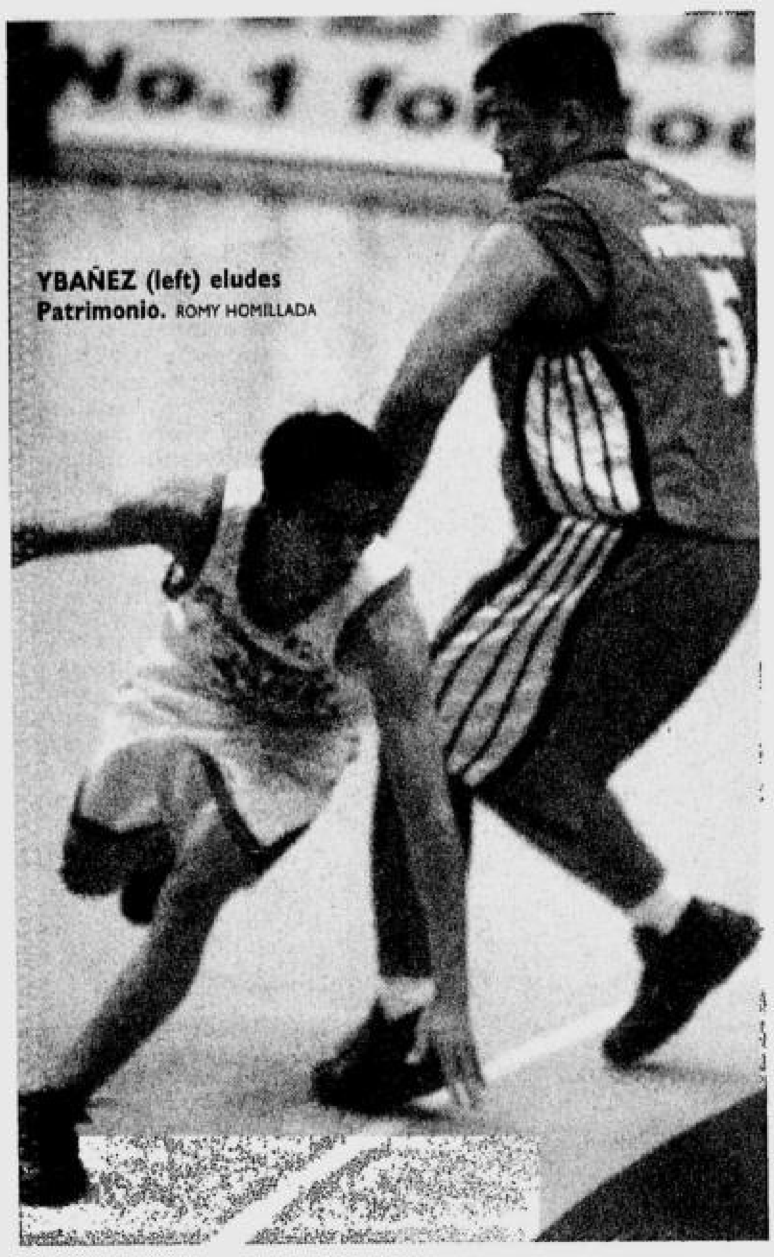
That same day, at the First Union Center, also in Philadelphia, Spears' boyfriend Justin Timberlake of the boy band Nsync will join three other celebrities in the inaugural Hoop-It-Up, a 3-on-3 half-court, single-elimination basketball tournament that features four teams—host Philadelphia, Los Angeles and Houston and an international squad. Each team consists of one NBA player, one WNBA player, one NBA legend (or old-timer) and one celebrity with the legend and celebrity able to substitute for one another.

Legendary Earvin "Magic" Johnson, a 6-9 playmaker who earned five NBA championship rings with the LA Lakers in the 1980s and is now co-owner and vice president of the club, will head the Los Angeles team. Joining him are Lakers guard Derek Fisher; WNBA MVP Lisa Leslie, a 6-5 center for the reigning WNBA titlist LA Sparks and singer-songwriter Brian McKnight, he of "One Last Cry" fame who will be performing with local singer-actress Regine Velasquez in a Valentine's Day concert at the Araneta Coliseum after the NBA All-Star festivities.

Moses Malone, a 6-10 center who led the 76ers to the NBA title in 1983 and is member of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, will spearhead the Philadelphia unit. He will be joined by Sixers swingman Aaron McKie, WNBA All-Star and University of Temple head coach Dawn Staley and Timberlake, the lead vocalist of Nsync.

PBL SERIES OPENER

Ybañez stars as Shark nips Welcoat



YBAÑEZ (left) eludes Patrimonio. ROMY HOMILLADA

GAMES TOMORROW: (Makati Coliseum)
3:30 p.m.—ICTSI-La Salle vs Kutitap
5:30 p.m.—Welcoat vs Shark

By Dennis U. Eroa

SMALL but terrible Warren Ybañez delivered the telling blows as defending champion Shark Energy Drink stunned highly favored Welcoat Paints, 80-79, in overtime at the start of the PBL Challenge Cup best-of-seven title series last night at the Makati Coliseum.

The 5-foot-9 Ybañez completed an Irvin Sotto recovery with a fastbreaking layup, capping his glowing show with a clean block off a driving Celino Cruz in the final 1.2 seconds which enabled the Energy Drink Kings to preserve the win before a thrilled crowd.

Welcoat, which is eyeing its fifth title before taking a leave of absence starting next conference, came to the ballgame oozing with confidence.

Shark, however, wasn't in the mood to just roll and die. It came prepared and engaged Welcoat in a battle of extinction.

Getting the numbers from PBA-bound players Ren Ritualo, Yancy de Ocampo and Jojo Manalo, the Paintmasters led till the end of the end of the third period, 53-49, until Shark coach Leo Austria unleashed the sweet-shooting Ysmael Junio and veteran Chester Tolomia.

Junio finished with 22 points, including five of Shark's 10 triples which solved the deadly Welcoat zone. Ybañez had 17 points, including three triples, while Tolomia finished with two triples en route to 14 points.

"This is about hard work," said Shark coach Leo Austria.

The win also marked the first time that the Energy Drink Kings won Game One of a best-of-seven series over Welcoat.

The Paintmasters, who swept the Energy Drink Kings twice in their titular battles, were lucky to force overtime. Power playing Allen Patrimonio escaped with a clear offensive foul, forcing the five-minute extension with a three-point play, 72-72.

De Ocampo then shocked the roaring Shark gallery with his third triple, 79-76, but Irvin Sotto answered with a fadeaway jumper, 79-78, 1:41 remaining, before Ybañez stood tall in the ensuing play.

KUTITAP 90—Baguio 19, Salangsang 19, Gelig 15, Bajar 13, Gonzalez 5, Mercado 4, Yuson 4, Rivera 3, Sison 3, Lopez 2, Espiritu 2, Mallari 1, Dy 0, Saquilayan 0.

ICTSI-LA SALLE 68—Cortez 11, Wilson 10, Franco 9, Ramos 8, Manalo 8, Cabanayan 4, Cuan 4, Daep 4, Omolon 3, Uy 3, Sta. Maria 2, Vainio 2, Castro 0.

Quarters:27-16,44-32,66-53,90-68

SHARK 80—Junio 17, Ybañez 17,Tolomia 14, Sotto 8,Ortega 7, Cole 6, Castro 4, Rodriguez 2, Basilides 0, Robinson 0, Malabanan 0.

WELCOAT 79—De Ocampo 25, Patrimonio 18, Ritualo 17, Manalo 9, Tan 5, Cruz 4, Canlas 1, Orfrecio 0, Encarnacion 0.

Quarters:14-22,34-35,49-53,72-72 (reg), 80-79

RP Team A gets Selecta support

By Roy Luarca

TEAM A of the candidates pool for the Busan Asian Games will be carrying the colors of Selecta when the PBA's Governor's Cup starts on Feb. 10.

Elmer Yanga, senior vice president for corporate affairs of the RFM Group of Companies, yesterday told the INQUIRER that Joey Concepcion, president and COO of RFM, used a simple formula in choosing between the two 15-man teams formed by the coaching staff headed by Jong Uichico.

"Basically, we chose Team A because it has more player who in one way or another have been identified with RFM," said Yanga. "Even before, we know that the coaching staff would come up with balanced squads so we made our choice based on affiliation."

Team A players identifiable with RFM are Kenneth Duremdes, Poch Juinio and Ali Peek.

Completing the team are Asi Taulava, Erik Menk, Dennis Espino, Rafi Reavis, Olsen Racela, Dondon Hontiveros, Chris Jackson, Chris Calaguio, Patrick Fran, Jimmy Alapag, Chris Clay and Jeffrey Flowers.

Team B is to be backed by Hapee toothpaste.

PBA commissioner Jun Bernardino gave RFM the option to choose which team would carry Selecta because it was the first conglomerate to offer financial help in the candidates' training.

Alex inks P4.8-M deal

HOTSHOT Alex Compton will continue to display his stuff with the LBC Batangas Blades in the Metropolitan Basketball Association. Blades owner Dino Araneta yesterday said that the 5-foot-11 Compton, the MBA's 1999 MVP, had signed a one-year contract extension reportedly worth P4.8 million. Meanwhile, Cagayan de Oro is seeking a return to the MBA, Eric and Butch Canoy informed commissioner Chito Loyzaga on Monday.

PNBA awards tonight

THE BEST and the brightest in amateur basketball gather tonight when the Philippine National Basketball Academy Awards Night unfolds at 7 at the Century Park Hotel, Vito Cruz, Manila.

The awardees will be led by Ms. Yoon Duk-Joo of Korea, who will be conferred the Sen. Ambrosio Padilla-Asian Leadership Award, and Dr. Carl men Ky Ching, who will be honored as Achiever of the Year.

Ms. Yoon will be honored for her exemplary work as former president of the Korea Basketball Association, and her involvement in different basketball associations, including the Asian Basketball Confederation (ABC) and the Fiba.

Pampanga jins stun Manila foes

THE UNIVERSITY of the Assumption-Pampanga outshone their rivals in Metro Manila when it ruled the taekwondo competitions in the Women's National Collegiate Athletic Association (WNCAA) over the weekend at the Assumption College Gym, San Lorenzo Village, Makati City.

The UAP Lady Pelicans grabbed a total of four gold medals in the senior division, with UAP's Michelle Punzalan also earning Best Player honors.

St. Scholastica's College was a distant second with a 1-1-3 gold-silver-bronze haul, while Assumption College settled for third with one gold and four bronze medals.

Lyceum of the Philippines ended up fourth on account of its four silvers and a bronze, while College of St. Benilde ended up fifth at the close of the day-long tournament sponsored by Telenetwork Marketing, CAP, Alaxan and Rexona.

Assumption College and Miriam College won two gold medals in the junior (high school) division, but Assumption took the title because it has two silvers and five bronze medals, while Miriam won a silver.

The victory gave Assumption its third straight WNCAA championship in the high school division.

Assumption and Miriam were actually running neck-and-neck for first place, but Assumption team captain Lumiere Lee, who was later voted as Best Player in the high school category, came through with a decisive victory over St. Scholastica's Angelu Raqueno.

Elizalde, Dayrit urged to resign

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THE UNSINKABLE Julian Malonso, outspoken former president of the Philippine Olympic Committee and staunch defender of the Olympic movement, is asking International Olympic Committee representative to the Philippines Frank Elizalde and POC president Celso Dayrit to step down following the resignation of Carlos Tuason as chair of the Philippine Sports Commission.

In a letter to Presidential legal counsel Avelino 'Nonong' Cruz, Malonso, 78, also asked the Macapagal administration to prod members of Congress to abolish the PSC which is always at odds with the POC, stressing that the never-ending feud is detrimental to the development of sports.

"At present, there are two central leaders competing for the country's limited physical and financial resources," said Malonso. "It is like "having a body with two heads. There sould have been only be one body to handle sports from the start." But unfortunately, Malonso stressed, the PSC cannot be abolished by Congress because the congressmen themselves are beneficiaries of the PSC law which grants them additional perks such as sports equipment and funding for their constituents. Simply put, one doesn't kill the goose that lays the golden egg.

In the case of Elizalde, Malonso said, the IOC representative is remiss in his duties and responsibilities. "Elizalde does not lift a finger against government intervention in sports which is prohibited by the IOC. He does not command the respect of sports leaders because he takes sides in controversies like the ouster of Cristy Ramos from the POC presidency and the last POC election between Celso Dayrit and Go Teng Kok. Elizalde also blocked the presence of the Fiba (International Basketball Federation) in the recent Basketball Association of the Philippines leadership imbroglio." Malonso added that Elizalde is the eyes and ears of the IOC in the Philippines, but he always throws the local problem back to the international body instead of deciding the problem himself, thus embarrassing the Philippines.

Malonso said, "Celso Dayrit should also resign for recognizing Freddie Jalasco as a member of the POC when Freddie is not longer president of the BAP; for taking sides in the National Sports Associations' controversies; and for creating positions in the POC which are not covered by the IOC rules."

PNBA AWARDS NIGHT. With newly appointed PSC chair Eric Buhain and POC chair Robert Aventajado as guests of honor, the Philippine National Basketball Academy will host its second awards night today, Jan. 30, at the Century Park Hotel. Together with PNBA president and Basketball Association of the Philippines chair Rep. Antonio Abaya and BAP president Tiny Literal, Buhain and Aventajado will present the Sen. Ambrosio-Padilla-Asian Leadership Awards to Ms Yoon Duk-Yoo of Korea and to Hong Kong's Dr. Carl Men Ky Ching, the PNBA Achiever of the Year. Also to be honored are leading figures in sports such as former POC president Col. Julian Malonso, track and field president Go Teng Kok, judo head Capt. Rey Jaylo, lawyer Bonifacio Alentajan, Athletes and Coaches Alliance of the Philippines headed by multi-awarded weightlifter Jaime Sebastian, Coach of the Year David Zamar and Mr. Basketball Romel Adducul.

SPORTSWATCH

Bata-Django duel on IBC-13

EFREN "Bata" Reyes' classic duel with countryman Francisco "Django" Bustamante in the Accu-Stats 8-Ball Invitational tournament in Los Angeles will be telecast tonight over IBC-13 from 7 to 9:30. In the opening match telecast last Sunday, Reyes came back from 6-3 down to edge former world champion Johnny Archer, 8-7, in a pulsating finish that had the fans on the edge of their seats. Reyes and Bustamante have had some classic duels in the past. Bustamante is the 2000 World Pool League champion while Reyes won the coveted title in Warsaw, Poland late last year. On Friday, also at 7 p.m., Reyes will face last year's World Pool Champion, Mika Immonen of Finland. The Accu-Stats 8-Ball Invitational is sponsored by Motolite, No Fear and Emperador Brandy.

Cavite chesser beats field

MARLON Montoya of Silang, Cavite, drew his fifth and final match against Richard Berame of Pasig City in just seven moves using the Sicilian Defense Sunday to rule the MCC 2100 below active chess tournament held at the Centermall in Greenhills Shopping Center. The 20-year-old Montoya, who scored four wins and one draw, actually tied for first to third place along with Berame and Robert Cacho with 4.5 points each. However, Montoya bagged the title due to better tiebreak and took home the championship trophy. They split the pooled cash prize of P5,500. Berame was adjudged the runner-up, while Cacho, who beat Dennis San Juan in 32 moves of a Slav Defense, landed third.
The best performers in their respective division were: Anthony of College of St. Benilde-unrated; Jan Vincent Paragua and Reynold Miraflor—juniors while Bruce Alfred Reyes—12-under.
Rounding off the top 10 winners were: Nelson Mendoza (6th); Efren Arguelles (7th); Jurex Gallo (8th); San Juan (9th) and Greg Jobo (10th).
The next MCC events are: Juniors (Feb. 10) and Open (Feb. 17).

Plazas lead derby entries

THE LATE Democrito Plaza of Agusan, one of the most revered pillars of Philippine cockfighting, is remembered today when his sons Boyet and Rep. Pong Plaza unleash their signature breed of pit fighters against the country's master breeders in the second phase of the ongoing Roligon 12th Anniversary Derby. Out to challenge the Plazas are Dicky Lim of Palawan, Gerry Sebastian, *balikbayan* Emmitt San Juan, Abraham Bernales, Bebot Munoz, Eddie Burgos and Boy Suazo of Butuan City, Mayor Manny Dalipe and Boy Primalion of Zamboanga. Another competitive evening loomed evident during last Monday's opener that netted only three undefeated entries; namely, Junior 77 of Roberto Longanilla, Jessie's Dream of lawyer Carlos and LA San Vicente of Lito Alcantara. Seat anywhere tickets will be sold at only P300 each with buy-one, take-one offer good until 6 p.m. Roligon manager Danny "Showdown" Ty announced that instead of the nine-day format the derby has been shortened to a five-day affair. After tonight's encounters two more 3-cock eliminations are set for Feb. 2 and 4 with the 4-cock championship on Feb. 6. For further information, call Roligon at tel. nos. 833-22-75 or 833-16-38.

'Firefly Thunderbird' shows way

CROWD favorite Firefly Thunderbird 13 of the formidable Firefly Group posted three straight wins Monday night to take the solo lead entering tonight's four-cock finals of the NCA 7-Cock Derby at the Araneta Coliseum. Hosted by Edgar Santos, Ruel Ricafort, Patrick Puno and Alex Escalona, the cockfest saw two other entries—Cat Stinger of Peping Cojuangco and Esting Teopaco and Binangonan SMV I—score 2-1/2 points to stay in the running together with 12 others which registered two points each. The two-pointers included Thunderbird Firefly II of Big Dome owner Nene Araneta, R&B Farm I and II of Rep. Claude Bautista and Boyboy Roa, BL RQP RFP of Boy Lechon and RFP, Geran, Binangonan MK, PE San Pablo Heat R & B of Pol Estrellado, Binangonan SMV, RT 114 Mapalad I, BL Laura, San Francisco Feb. 13 and Meycauayan of Mayor Eddie Alarilla. Meanwhile, another NCA 7-Cock Derby will be held on Feb. 18-20, with three-time Rizal Gov. Ito Ynares and Manny Co as hosts.

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

BASKETBALL: NBA—LA Clippers vs Dallas Mavericks at 9 a.m. (r – 4:30 p.m. and 9 p.m.) on ESPN
US NCAA—Illinois vs Ohio State at 1 p.m., St. John's vs Seton Hall at midnight, Kentucky vs Florida tomorrow at 2:30 a.m. on ESPN
GOLF: PGA Phoenix Open, Third Round at 2 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
Great Rounds at the Open—Ballesteros at 6 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
POOL: Mosconi Cup 2001 at 8 a.m. (r) on ESPN
Rack 'Em Up—Best of Steve Davis at 7 p.m. on ESPN

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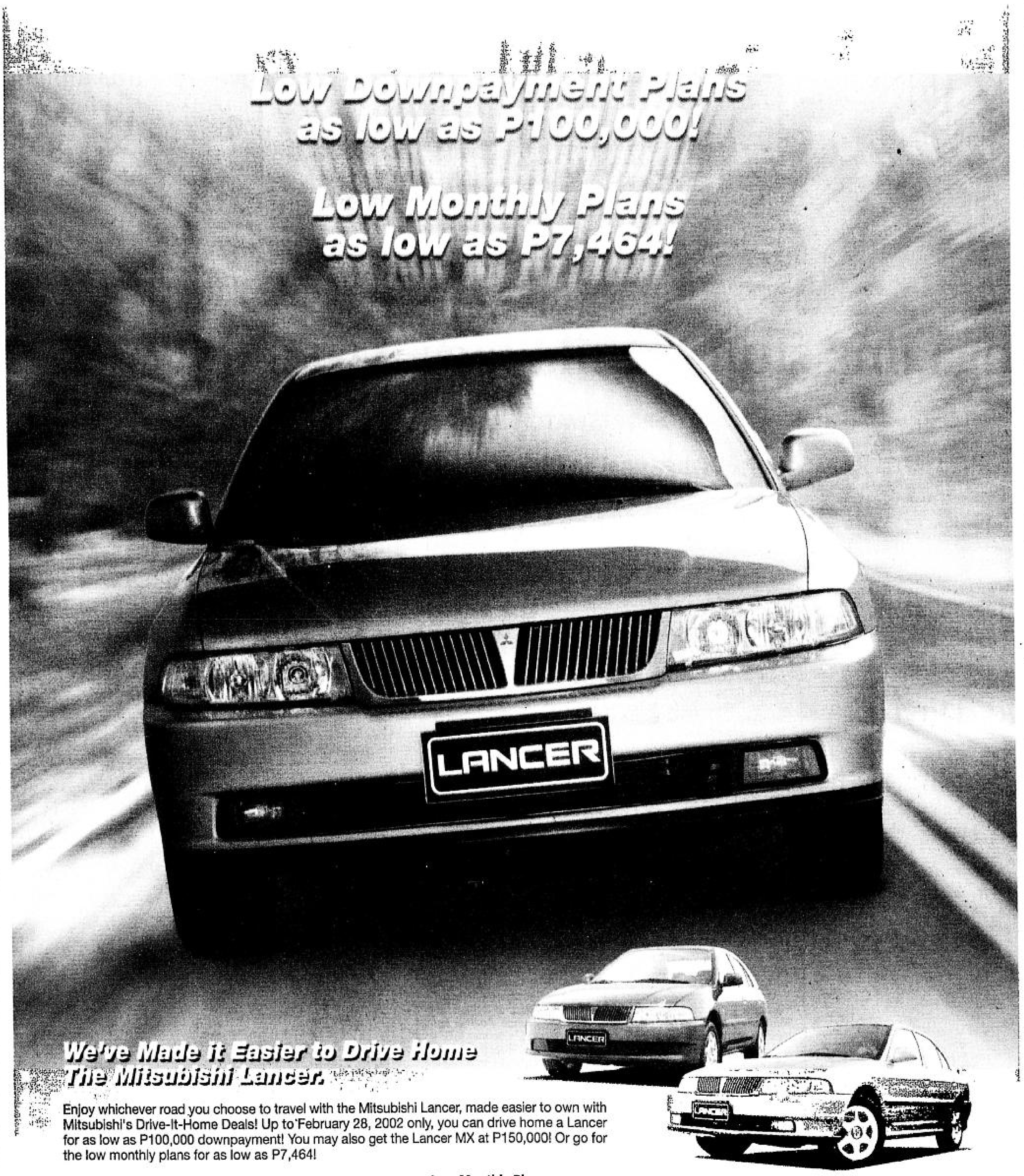
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GLS A/T	710,000	355,000	31,468	21,725	17,293	12,364	10,017	8,768
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MITSUBISHI MOTORS

Vital POC meet today

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee is set to discuss two touchy topics today in its quarterly general assembly by tackling the protracted leadership dispute in cycling and the criteria set by the Asian Games Task Force.

POC secretary general Romy Ribaño said the topics might consume the whole afternoon that other matters, including questions regarding the ethics commission and its cases against athletics chief Go Teng Kok, might just be addressed later.

Ribaño said it depends on the presiding officer to find time for other matters. Presiding the meeting will either be the POC chair Robert Aventajado or POC president Celso Dayrit.

Go earlier asked to be called on the stand to clear his name after the ethics commission accused him of besmirching the name of the POC on two occasions.

But Dayrit and Ribaño turned it down and suggested that the issue be settled privately or in the ethics commission, whose scope and limitations are still being questioned by several head of national sports associations.

Sources said the number of NSA heads opposed to Dayrit's leadership style is growing by the day and that they might stage a resistance to demonstrate their loss of confidence in the present POC administration. Dayrit can't be reached for comment.

The general assembly will try to resolve the problem plaguing the Philippine Amateur Cycling Association, particularly the charges of Danao, Cebu Mayor Ramonito Durano III that the POC arbitration committee railroaded the case by claiming he already agreed to be the Paca chair and accepted Ponciano Regalado as its president.

The POC will also tackle the criteria drafted by the Asiad Task Force which earlier ruled that 2001 Southeast Asian Games gold winners and 1998 Asiad bronze medalists are already seeded in the Busan Asiad.

Iloilo soccer starts

BAROTAC NUEVO, Iloilo—Six teams—two each from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao—will see action in the 18th Coke Go-for-Goal under-16 national football championship starting today at the Barotac Nuevo field here.

The contenders are Luzon's La Salle Zobel and Masbate Comprehensive National High, Mindanao's La Salle Academy and Rizal Memorial Colleges and Visayas' Cebu Carmen National High and Barotac Nuevo National High.

Action unwraps after the 1:30 p.m. opening ceremony where Gov. Niel O. Tupas will be guest of honor.

Last year's champion, West Negros College, failed to qualify but the runner-up, La Salle Academy, is rated one of the favorites this time.

Bare Eye: It's true what they were saying about RP's Prince of Pool /A22

METRO

Louie C. Camino, Editor

Mental patients die of cholera

By Nelson F. Flores

THREE patients at the National Center for Mental Health in Mandaluyong City died from what appears to be cholera, according to members of the hospital staff.

Patients Loreta Isip, a certain Trazo and one Villanueva died on Wednesday within hours of each other after they fell ill and showed symptoms of cholera, the hospital staff members said. The patients were all from Pavilion 5, where some 500 other mentally ill patients are confined.

"They just suddenly vomited all over the place, had loose bowel movements and died two or three hours later," said one source, who also claimed to have heard of other deaths. "It is frightening."

The source said that last Satur-

MENTAL PATIENTS/ A22

Strike threat fails to stop new road rule

By Alcuin Papa

THE THREAT of a jeepney strike next month has not deterred the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority from pursuing its plan to strictly implement its new traffic policy that will impose stiffer penalties on traffic violators.

In a press conference the other day, MMDA chair Benjamin Abalos said the proposal was meant to solve the worsening traffic problem in the metropolis and take out "chaos in the streets."

STRIKE THREAT/ A22

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30 (912-8983)

VICTIM Rizza Emilio (left), with a friend, was a "well-behaved" girl, says her father.

Hit-and-run accident kills Unicef scholar

By Agnes E. Donato

FIVE-YEAR-OLD Rizza Emilio was hit and killed by a pick-up near her home in Quezon City last Thursday.

Rizza was a scholar of the United Nations Children Fund (Unicef). Her father Eugenio said the last time she saw her alive was on the night of Jan. 24. She was eating a chocolate bar inside their home on NIA Road in Quezon City while he was cooking rice, he said.

Eugenio yesterday told the INQUIRER that Rizza was hit and then dragged for several meters by the vehicle, whose driver Eugenio is now calling on to face the consequences of his apparent recklessness.

"I had no idea that Rizza had gone out of the house," he said.

He described Rizza as a well-behaved girl. On the night she was killed, one of her friends had apparently summoned her to the other side of the street to play, he said.

Eugenio said he could not describe the horror he felt when he saw his daughter sprawled on the street.

Witnesses rushed Rizza to the East Avenue Medical Center, where she was pronounced dead on arrival, he said. He said he and some neighbors had tried to run after the vehicle that hit Rizza, but the driver turned off his lights and sped away.

"We hope he would realize what he has done," he said of the driver. "I'm sure he doesn't want this to happen to any member of his family."

Balut vendor Albert Ranaco, a neighbor of the Emilios, said two women on board a Honda Accord (ULC 620) came to the neighborhood twice after the accident. The first time, the women only looked around, he said. When they came back around midnight, they asked residents about the accident and even inquired about the girl, he said.

The Honda Accord turned out to be registered in the name of CM Furukawa Philippines, with address at 208 Veterans St., Taguig, Metro Manila.

Members of the Central Police District Traffic Management Unit later found out that a certain Arthur Tañada, who is said to hold an administrative position in CM Furukawa, is supposed to be using the Honda Accord.

Another victim

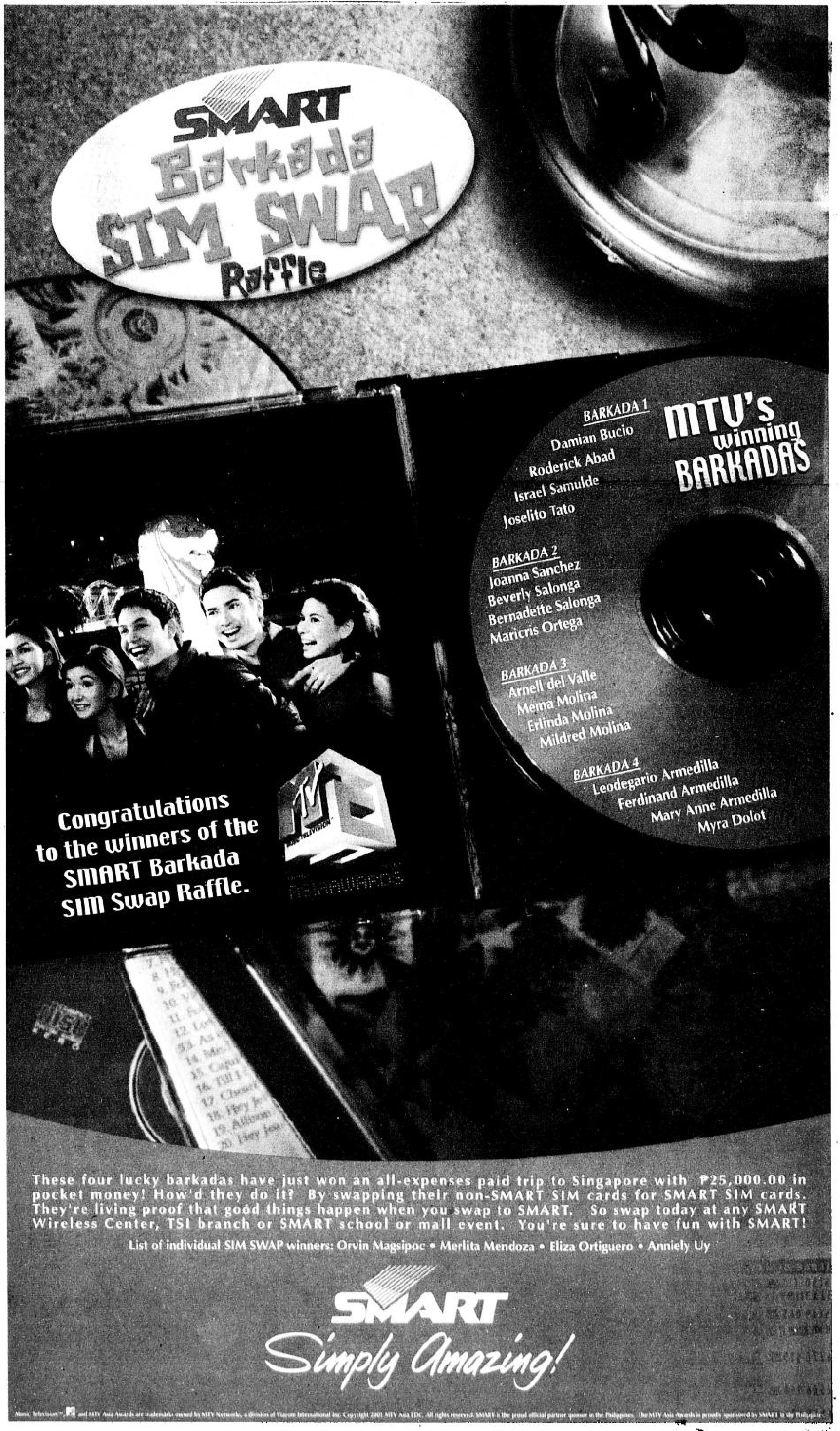
POLICE are also looking for witnesses to a hit-and-run accident on Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City that killed Danilo Cruz early Saturday morning.

Cruz, 29, and father of two, was standing in front of the PLDT Balara Exchange along the busy street when a cream or light-yellow Honda Civic rammed him, police said.

The late-model Civic was last seen heading for Fairview.

Police and the family of Cruz said the windshield of the Civic must have cracked or been smashed by the impact.

Call Daniel Cruz at 922-2166 or Thet Cruz at 931-0689 for any information on the whereabouts of the car or its driver.



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It's true what they were saying about RP's Prince of Pool

BARE EYE

Recab Trinidad

IT was not as smooth, as silken as an Efren "Bata" Reyes masterpiece.

Yes, there were bits of magic. But, on the whole, miscues, bad breaks helped decide the race-to-13 championship.

No matter, the weekend victory of the lean, youthful Lee Van Corteza over Warren Kiamco in the Barcelona Brandy Battle of Gold Medalists has created enough stir in the local pool world.

No, the feat will not land the new billiards star in Time magazine, the way Bata Reyes did with three successive jackpot wins late last year.

The victory doesn't carry enough merit to get Corteza nominated as athlete of the year.

At least fans and experts can now dream of more foreign exposure for Corteza, after the young wonder worker had bared his golden worth.

* * *

Corteza, 22, son of a retired geodetic engineer from Davao, on Saturday simply confirmed what experts had been saying. That he's the future of Philippine billiards, the prince waiting a few steps to assume the kingship.

Truth is they have been saying this about Corteza as early as the 1999 Southeast Asian Games in Brunei where he won a gold medal.

He returned to the SEA Games last year and bagged another gold, at the expense of his idol, Bata Reyes, in the eight-ball singles in Kuala Lumpur.

Reported the INQUIRER on that event: "There's a problem. Many Filipino fans here refused to believe Bata Reyes really played his best. They swore Corteza was not capable of truly upstaging Bata Reyes. The majority swore Reyes instead took a dive to give Corteza the gold. Reyes has, of course, made a screaming denial. He claimed he lost clear and clean after he miscalculated and had the cue ball hopelessly locked with the eight ball in the last and deciding match. Reyes also glared at his conqueror after Corteza insisted that he had to play a nervous game throughout the close and exciting eight-ball final. Said Reyes: '*Kalokohang ni-nerbiyos 'yan. Kitang-kita naman ninyo ang laban* (It's silly for him to claim he played scared. You all saw how he performed.)'"

* * *

The routine response among Filipino workers in KL after that major upset was both awe and disbelief. To repeat, they obviously never thought David and Goliath could be remade at the pool table.

In that all-revealing *mano-a-mano*, the shy Corteza fussed and fidgeted a lot around the table. He appeared both pale and cold. Naturally, this led several keen-eyed Pinoy spectators to quip that Corteza appeared very much like a boy sent by his mother to fetch vinegar at the corner store. *Pinabili lang ng suka.*

At least, at the Robinson's Place in Malate where he scored a major conquest on Saturday, fans were one in saying that Corteza is for real.

There was a big commotion after the championship. But if reporters had bothered to ask the young, frail winner how he managed to survive the nerve-wracking duel, they would have been told that, as in past victories, he opted to play hungry.

Corteza loves to say that he refuses to eat before big matches. He believes that he could play doubly better on an empty stomach. Food, he has cautioned, renders him sort of dull, sluggish around the competition table.

* * *

For the record, he was the least known in the tournament foursome that included Kiamco, a seasoned internationalist, battle-scarred Antonio Lining, and Snooky Villanueva, other half of the pair that won for the Philippines its lone gold medal in the 1998 Bangkok Asian Games.

As one who had followed his quiet rise, your reporter here put a little beer money on Corteza.

But a tested grandmaster who had been fully acquitted by the Corteza conquest on Saturday was Ramon Ancaja, coach of the national pool team.

More known as Ramon Tsampyon, the shy, retiring Ancaja had been predicting Corteza's coming.

In fact, Ancaja loved to say that Corteza was shooting a lot better than the legendary Bata when Reyes was only 22. *Mas maganda and itinitira ni* Van Van *sa edad niya ngayon.*

The question to ask now is: Will Corteza's golden feat finally open the eyes of rich sponsors who should export the young genius the way they have paraded Bata Reyes and his gang before the pool world?

Will they? Your guess is just as good as mine.

(FAREWELL: He chose me as his friend. Whenever he would return from a foreign trip, his secretary would next come knocking at the door. I would get a new book and a bottle of exquisite brandy. I don't know how I, a mere staffer of his father, earned this privilege. This dear friend who had spoiled me, Franciso "Ike" Tupas, 47, will be laid to rest at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina on Friday. It's his birthday tomorrow. Son of the late Rudolfo G. Tupas, noted editor and former ambassador to Libya, Ike, executive director of the Academe Publishing House, was an environmentalist who fought unabated quarrying at the mountain in Montalban, now Rodriguez town. He loved games. May you find the golden peace and quiet you've always treasured. My deepest sympathies to his mother Nora, his wife Edna, children Juancho and Nico.)

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Death times 7 for child rapist

By Agnes E. Donato

A QUEZON City court on Monday handed down seven death sentences to a man who was found guilty of raping his daughter four years ago.

Judge Monina Zenarosa of the QC Regional Trial Court Branch 76 found the man guilty of seven counts of rape and ordered him to pay the victim P50,000 in moral and civil damages for each count of rape.

The victim, now a 14-year-old third year high school student, is the eldest of the man's four children by his second wife.

Court records showed the rape took place in the family residence in Barangay Culiat, Quezon City in March and April 1998.

The girl told the court that each time he raped her, her father had threatened to kill her and her siblings if she told on him.

When she could not take the abuses anymore, she decided to tell her mother and her grandmother, who accompanied her to the police.

In his defense, the man claimed he was somewhere else when the rape took place. He also tried to overturn the crime laboratory's findings that the victim had been raped by saying his daughter had a urinary tract infection in 1994 and doctors had to insert a catheter into her genitals to ease the pain whenever she urinated.

He also claimed he once caught his daughter watching a pornographic movie with her boyfriend in her bedroom. He also accused his mother-in-law of instigating the charge against him.

But in her 14-page decision, Judge Zenarosa asked why Catapang, who was supposedly a working man, was not at his workplace on the dates of the crime but was allegedly visiting friends and relatives somewhere else.

Strike threat . . .

From page A21

"We must strictly implement the traffic rules because we cannot have this kind of recidivism from drivers," Abalos said. "There is chaos in the streets. (The public utility drivers) are responsible for their passengers."

But Efren de Luna, chair and national president of the Philippine Conference of Drivers Organization-Alliance of Concerned Transport Operators (PCDO-ACTO), told the Inquirer yesterday that they will oppose the new traffic scheme.

"It is not lawful because it will threaten our livelihood and drive us into poverty," De Luna said in Filipino. "The scheme's rationale is actually to phase out the jeepneys in favor of the FX taxis and buses."

The PCDO-ACTO has a nationwide roster of 160,000 members.

De Luna said his group is preparing to stage a nationwide transport strike in the third week of February.

But Abalos remained unperturbed in the face of the planned transport strike. "We must not be swayed by threats like that," he said.

He also clarified that the MMDA is not out to target jeepney drivers in the new scheme. He said the MMDA will have to inform jeepney drivers that the law applies to everyone, not just public utility drivers.

Mental . . .

From page A21

day, at least 50 patients of Pavilion 5 started complaining of stomach pains and they were brought to the hospital infirmary. Other patients later complained of aching stomachs also and were treated in the pavilion because there was no more space in the infirmary, the source said.

Starting Saturday, hospital personnel were issued surgical gowns, masks and gloves and were asked to take antibiotics as a precaution, the source said.

The source also disputed reports that the illness plaguing the patients was due to the contamination of the water or the food supply. The source said the illness has been confined only to patients of Pavilion 5.

"If it's the contaminated water distribution system or the food supply of the NCMH that is spreading the illness, then all of us in the hospital should have fallen ill," the source said.

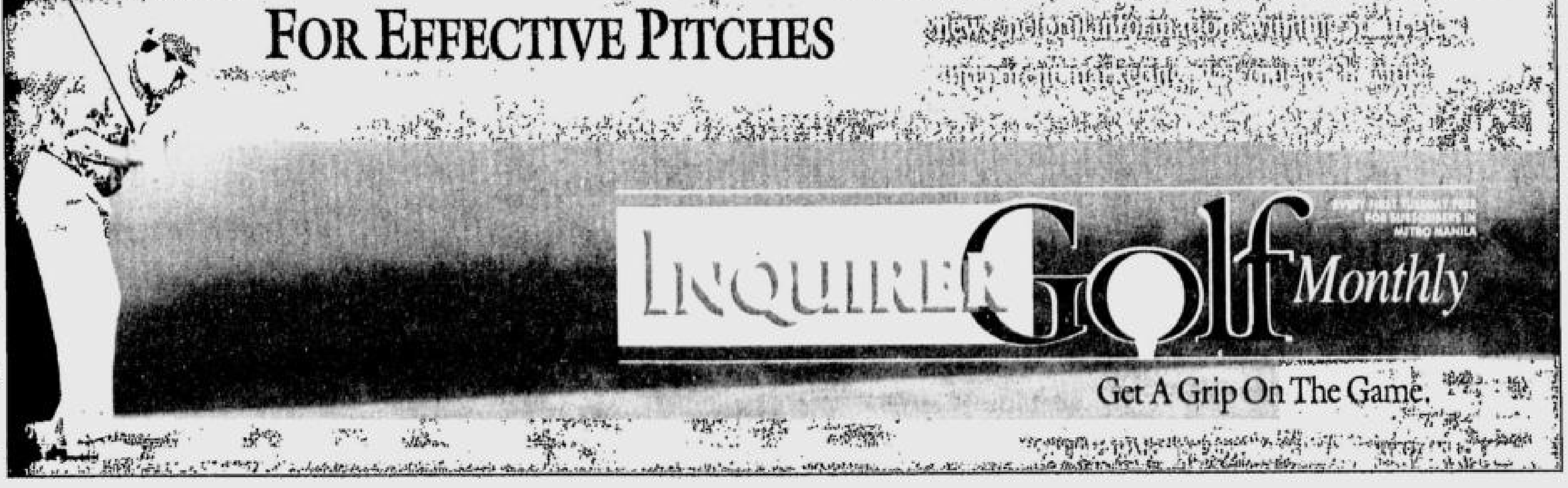
But hospital management denied that three of their patients had died.

Pavillon 5 administrative officer Linda Espinosa said there was no epidemic at the hospital. She also denied that patients had died because of a disease.

The Inquirer tied to talk to the NCMH director, Dr. Bernardo Vicente, but an office secretary said he could not be disturbed.

The Department of Health's National Epidemiology Center said it had not received any report from the NCMH on any cholera or salmonella cases in the hospital.

According to doctors, cholera could cause serious vomiting and dehydration through severe loose bowel movement. It could kill the patient within hours after contamination.



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2 BLACK HAWK DOWN In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	2 HEART IN ATLANTIS In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	6 OCEAN'S ELEVEN In DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND	2 BLACK HAWK DOWN In SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND	2 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA? In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	3 BLACK HAWK DOWN THX In DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND	7 THE OTHERS In DTS DIGITAL SOUND	3 OCEAN'S ELEVEN In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	3 OCEAN'S ELEVEN In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 KUNG IKAW AY ISANG PANAGINIP In DTS DIGITAL SOUND	4 BEHIND ENEMY LINES In DTS DIGITAL SOUND	Art Film	4 PROMISES PROMISES FEB. 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16 - 8PM Onstage	4 KUNG IKAW AY ISANG PANAGINIP In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
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1 (DDS) LORD OF THE RINGS
2 (SDDS) BLACK HAWK DOWN
3 (DTS) HEART IN ATLANTIS
4 GOLD (DTS) OCEAN'S ELEVEN
5 GOLD (DOLBY) DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
6 GOLD (SDDS) BLACK HAWK DOWN
7 GOLD (DOLBY) BLACK HAWK DOWN
8 KUNG IKAW AY ISANG PANAGINIP
9 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
10 FINAL ANSWER

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486
1
2
3 (DTS) OCEAN'S ELEVEN
4
5 KUNG IKAW AY ISANG PANAGINIP
6 (DTS) BLACK HAWK DOWN
Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603
1 ISANG PANAGINIP
2 BLACK HAWK DOWN
3 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986
1 ISANG PANAGINIP
2 FINAL ANSWER
3 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) BLACK HAWK DOWN
5 OCEAN'S ELEVEN

METROPOLIS star
Tel. 850 4285
1 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
2 HEART IN ATLANTIC
3 FINAL ANSWER
4 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
5 ISANG PANAGINIP
6 BLACK HAWK DOWN
7 RESERVE
8 RESERVE

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) Tel. 7512010 to 13
1 BLACK HAWK DOWN

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 AMERICAN ADOBO
2 WALANG IWANAN

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515
1 ISANG PANAGINIP
2 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
3 BLACK HAWK DOWN

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864
1 BLACK HAWK DOWN
A ISANG PANAGINIP

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376
1 BLACK HAWK DOWN
2 ISANG PANAGINIP
3 FINAL ANSWER
4 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588
1 (DOLBY) ISANG PANAGINIP
2 RESERVE
3 RESERVE
4 FINAL ANSWER
5 HEART IN ATLANTIS
6 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
7 (DTS) OCEAN'S ELEVEN
8 (SDDS) BLACK HAWK DOWN
9 (DOLBY) DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE

Caloocan
tel 362.3508
2 ISANG PANAGINIP

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781
1 FINAL ANSWER
2 ISANG PANAGINIP
3 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
4 (SDDS) OCEAN'S ELEVEN
5 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
6 (DOLBY) BLACK HAWK DOWN
7 (DTS) ISANG PANAGINIP
8 BUKO PANDAN
9 BEHIND ENEMY LINES

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083
1 (DTS) OCEAN'S ELEVEN
2 ISANG PANAGINIP
3 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
4
5 (SDDS) BLACK HAWK DOWN
6 FINAL ANSWER
7 (DOLBY) DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
8

Ortigas
tel 656.6795
1 ISANG PANAGINIP
2 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
3 (DTS) DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
4 FINAL ANSWER
5 (SDDS) BLACK HAWK DOWN

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 ISANG PANAGINIP

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888
1 ISANG PANAGINIP

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724
Dilson HUBO
Lords TALK DIRTY TO ME
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MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
2 ISANG PANAGINIP
3 BLACK HAWK DOWN

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215
3 ISANG PANAGINIP

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238
1 (DOLBY) BLACK HAWK DOWN
2 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
3 HEART IN ATLANTIC
4 ISANG PANAGINIP
5 FINAL ANSWER

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619
1 ISANG PANAGINIP
2 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
3 BLACK HAWK DOWN
4 RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 FINAL ANSWER

Baclaran LRT
LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115
1 (DOLBY) RESERVE
2 RESERVE

Berma
tel 879.2029
1 ISANG PANAGINIP
2 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269
1 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
2 ISANG PANAGINIP

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198
1 ISANG PANAGINIP
2 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
3 (DTS) BLACK HAWK DOWN

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 ISANG PANAGINIP
2 (DTS) MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
3 (DOLBY) BLACK HAWK DOWN
4 THE OTHERS

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 ISANG PANAGINIP
2 (DOLBY) BLACK HAWK DOWN
3 (DTS) THE OTHERS
4 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 ISANG PANAGINIP
2 LORD OF THE RINGS
3 SOON TO OPEN
4 SOON TO OPEN

Cinema 2000 MovieTown
TEL. (045) 9821729 (Tarlac)
1 THE OTHERS
2 LORD OF THE RINGS
3 (DOLBY) ISANG PANAGINIP
4 (DTS) MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) FINAL ANSWER
2 ISANG PANAGINIP
3 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
4 (DTS) BLACK HAWK DOWN

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) BLACK HAWK DOWN
2 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
3 (DTS) THE OTHERS
4 ISANG PANAGINIP
5 FINAL ANSWER

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
1 ISANG PANAGINIP
2 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
3 BLACK HAWK DOWN

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2558
1 ISANG PANAGINIP
2 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
3 BLACK HAWK DOWN

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311
1 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
2 FINAL ANSWER
3 BURLESK KING

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736
1 THE OTHERS
2 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
3 BLACK HAWK DOWN

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808
1 (DTS) ISANG PANAGINIP
2 (DTS) MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
2 ISANG PANAGINIP
3 FINAL ANSWER

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 BUKO PANDAN
2 ON THE LINE
3 ISANG PANAGINIP
4 OCEAN'S ELEVEN

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY DG) BLACK HAWK DOWN
2 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
3 ISANG PANAGINIP
4 (DTS DG) FINAL ANSWER

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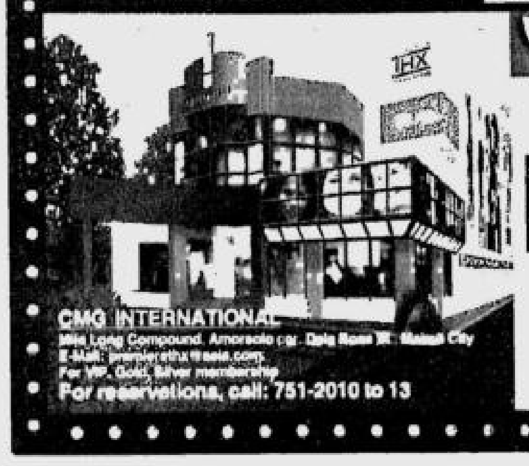
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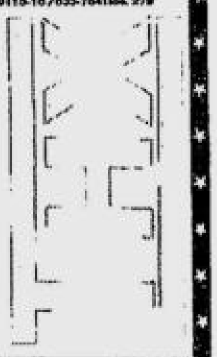
4 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
5 ISANG PANAGINIP
6 HEART IN ATLANTIS
7 LORD OF THE RINGS
8 FINAL ANSWER
9 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
10 THE OTHERS



ERMITA 536-7809 TO 12
1 BLACK HAWK DOWN
2 HEART IN ATLANTIS
3 FINAL ANSWER
4 ISANG PANAGINIP
5 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
6 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
7 OCEAN'S ELEVEN

METRO EAST 632-0115-16 / 633-7641
1 HEART IN ATLANTIS
2 BLACK HAWK DOWN
DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
3 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
LORD OF THE RINGS
4 ISANG PANAGINIP
5 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
FINAL ANSWER

NOVALICHES 935-3229 TO 31
1 BLACK HAWK DOWN
2 LORD OF THE RINGS
3 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
4 HEART IN ATLANTIS
5 ISANG PANAGINIP
6 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
7 FINAL ANSWER
8 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

IMUS (046) 471-6198
1 7 BLACK HAWK DOWN
2 8 HEART IN ATLANTIS
3 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
4 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
5 FINAL ANSWER
6 ISANG PANAGINIP

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3 ZOOLANDER
4 BEHIND ENEMY LINES
5 IRON LADIES
6 WALANG IWANAN

ILOILO (033) 336-0077 / 0078
1 BLACK HAWK DOWN
2 LORD OF THE RINGS
3 LORD OF THE RINGS
4 BURLESK KING
5 ISANG PANAGINIP
6 OCEAN'S ELEVEN

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	MAHAL KITA: FINAL ANSWER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	KUNG IKAW AY 1 PANAGINIP
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	MAHAL KITA: FINAL ANSWER
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SISID / TAILS OF EROTIKA
ODEON	BLACK HAWK DOWN
ODEON-2	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
ROBEN	KUNG IKAW AY ISANG PANAGINIP
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	THE HOLE / EARTHQUAKE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
REMAR	BLACK HAWK DOWN
REMAR-2	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	KUNG IKAW AY ISANG PANAGINIP
B	BLACK HAWK DOWN
C	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
CINEMA-2	BLACK HAWK DOWN
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BUKO PANDAN
CINEMA-2	MAHAL KITA: FINAL ANSWER
CINEMA-3	KUNG IKAW AY 1 PANAGINIP
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-6	THE OTHERS
CINEMA-7	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
CINEMA-8	AMERICAN ADOBO
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	BLACK HAWKDOWN
CINEMA-12	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
CINEMA-14	KUNG IKAW AY 1 PANAGINIP
CINEMA-15	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
CINEMA-2	BLACK HAWK DOWN
CINEMA-3	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
CINEMA-4	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
CINEMA-5	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
CINEMA-6	BLACK HAWK DOWN
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
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CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

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3 BLACK HAWK DOWN
4 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
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6 ISANG PANAGINIP
7 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
8 HEARTS IN ATLANTIS

SM CENTERPOINT
3149522 -7161416
1 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
2 HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
3 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
4 BEHIND ENEMY LINES
5 BLACK HAWK DOWN
6 FINAL ANSWER
7 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
8 BLACK HAWK DOWN
9 ISANG PANAGINIP
10 AMERICAN ADOBO

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350740
1 LORD OF THE RINGS
2 BEHIND ENEMY LINES
3 THE OTHERS
4 BLACK HAWK DOWN
5 FINAL ANSWER
6 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
7 BLACK HAWK DOWN
8 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
9 ISANG PANAGINIP
10 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
11 HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
12 AMERICAN ADOBO

SM CITY MANILA
5239240
1 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
2 BLACK HAWK DOWN
3 BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
5 AMERICAN ADOBO
6 BLACK HAWK DOWN
7 HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
8 THE OTHERS
9 ISANG PANAGINIP
10 LORD OF THE RINGS
11 FINAL ANSWER
12 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

SM MEGAMALL
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1 BLACK HAWK DOWN
2 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
3 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
4 BLACK HAWK DOWN
5 BEHIND ENEMY LINES
6 HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
7 THE OTHERS
8 AMERICAN ADOBO
9 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
10 ISANG PANAGINIP
11 FINAL ANSWER
12 LORD OF THE RINGS

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9205452
1 AMERICAN ADOBO
2 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
3 ISANG PANAGINIP
4 FINAL ANSWER
5 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
6 HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
7 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
8 BLACK HAWK DOWN
9 BEHIND ENEMY LINES
10 LOR OF THE RINGS
11 THE OTHERS
12 BLACK HAWK DOWN

SM SOUTHMALL
8060088 • 8060702
1 HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
2 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
3 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
4 ISANG PANAGINIP
5 LORD OF THE RINGS
6 BEHIND ENEMY LINES
7 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
8 BLACK HAWK DOWN
9 FINAL ANSWER
10 AMERICAN ADOBO

SM CITY CEBU
2313876
1 LORD OF THE RINGS
2 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
3 BLACK HAWK DOWN
4 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
5 BUKO PANDAN
6 ISANG PANAGINIP
7 ZOOLANDER
8 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422
1 BLACK HAWK DOWN
2 CLOSED
3 ISANG PANAGINIP
4 LORD OF THE RINGS
5 BURLESK KING
6 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
7 CLOSED
8 BUKO PANDAN

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015
1 BLACK HAWK DOWN
2 SUMMER CATCH
3 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
4 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
5 FINAL ANSWER
6 ISANG PANAGINIP

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8264075
1 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
2 BLACK HAWK DOWN
3 ISANG PANAGINIP
4 OCEAN'S ELEVEN

SM GUADALUPE COMM'L
8820005
1 ISANG PANAGINIP
2 BLACK HAWK DOWN
3 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

SM CITY TUTUBAN
2514302
1 BLACK HAWK DOWN
2 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
3 ISANG PANAGINIP
4 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

SM CITY DAVAO
2974004
1 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
2 ISANG PANAGINIP
3 LORD OF THE RINGS
4 BLACK HAWK DOWN
5 AMERICAN AOBO
6 LORD OF THE RINGS

SM BICUTAN
1
2
3
4
SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1
2
3
4
SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

THE PODIUM
18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City
1
2
SOON TO OPEN!
2 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND
6389781-85

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

Carlo to sing with Lea at PICC show

OROSA

THE YEAR 2002 starts with a bang for Carlo Orosa, as he shares the stage with Lea Salonga in the Broadway concert, Jan. 31 and Feb. 1 at the PICC.

Chosen by director Bobby Garcia and musical director Gerard Salonga, Carlo will sing some memorable Broadway tunes with Lea.

Although it is his first time to sing a duet with her, it's not the first time that they are working together. In 1995, Carlo played a cameo role as the teen angel in "Grease," presented by Maxi-Media.

When Lea left to conquer the international theater scene with "Miss Saigon," Carlo established himself in the local front as a singer and recording artist, with initial forays into theater. He landed key roles in "The Great White Way" series, "Magsimula Ka" and Tanghalang Pilipino's "Florante at Laura."

He also starred in Trumpets' musical productions like "Joseph the Dreamer," "The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe" and "Little Mermaid."

Carlo is being managed by Manila Genesis Entertainment and Management Inc. For bookings, call 721-4405.

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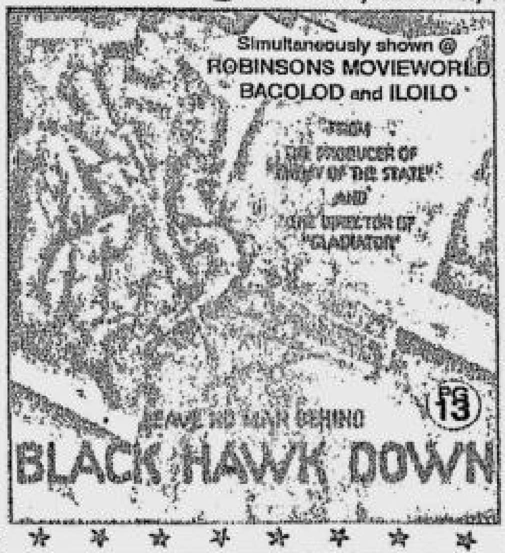
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FROM THE PRODUCER OF "ENEMY OF THE STATE" AND THE DIRECTOR OF "GLADIATOR"
LEAVE NO MAN BEHIND
BLACK HAWK DOWN
PG 13

kung ikaw ay isang
panaginip
Jolina Magdangal

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-EBERT & ROEPER

"★★★★"
-Jeff Craig, SIXTY SECOND PREVIEW
"A CAPTIVATING MOVIE EXPERIENCE. ANTHONY HOPKINS CREATES A FASCINATING MYSTIQUE."
-David Sheehan, KCBS-LOS ANGELES
"A TERRIFIC FILM - VERY TOUCHING."
-Bob Parker, CNN NEWSOURCE
"A SUPERB FILM."
-Ed Held, SLIDELL SENTRY NEWS-NEW ORLEANS
"A QUIETLY POWERFUL, BEAUTIFULLY BURNISHED DEPTH CHARGE OF A MOVIE."
-Jay Carr, BOSTON GLOBE
"TREMENDOUSLY MOVING- ONE OF THE MOST EMOTIONAL FILMS OF THE YEAR."
Colin Boyd, KZON-FM PHOENIX

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'TIS THE SEASON TO BE JOLLY! (AGAIN!)

Leandro Muñoz
Rafael Rosell IV
Jolina Magdangal

kung ikaw ay isang
panaginip
DIRECTED BY: WENN V. DERAMAS
STAR CINEMA
GRAND OPENING TODAY
SM NORTH • SM MEGAMALL 9 • SM GUADALUPE • ROBINSON GALLERIA • SM CENTERPOINT • MARKET PLACE • SM FAIRVIEW 6 • ROBINSON NOVALICHES • GOTESCO COMMONWEALTH • SM SOUTHMALL • ALABANG TOWN • SM TUTUBAN • ROBEN • DIVISORIA MALL • SM CITY • CINERAMA • UNIVERSAL • GOTESCO CITY 5 • ALIMALL 2 • SAMPAGUITA • GLORIETTA 1 • SUNSHINE MALL • PEARL PLAZA • METROPOLIS • LIANAS • FESTIVAL • SPRING 1 • MASAGANA • BERMA • CITIMALL * SM SUCAT • STA.LUCIA • ROBINSON MALL EAST • GOTESCO ORTIGAS • PRIMA 3 • GOTESCO GRAND • GOTESCO OLD • ROYAL MALL • ALIW MEYCA • IS PAVILLON • BACOOR 6

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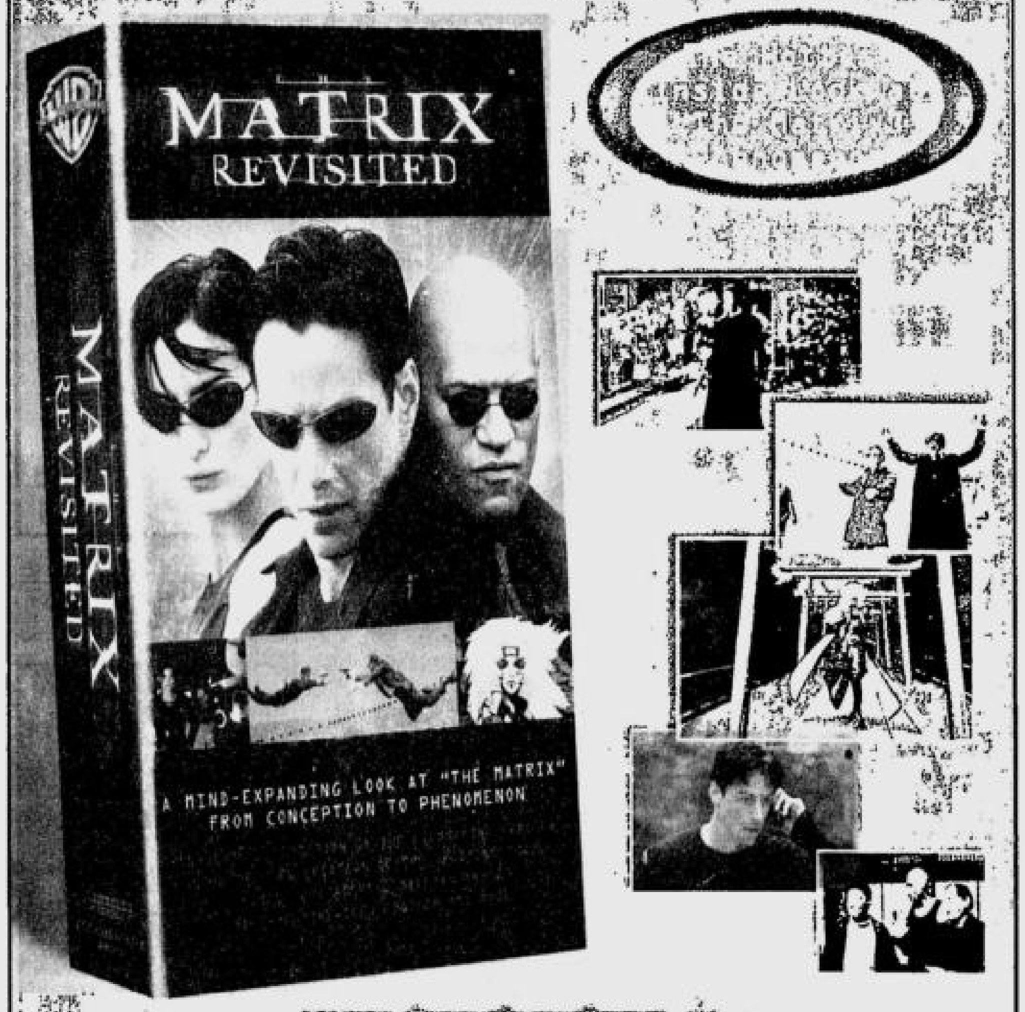
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A MIND-EXPANDING LOOK AT "THE MATRIX" FROM CONCEPTION TO PHENOMENON

MATRIX REVISITED
HIGHLIGHTS:
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SECOND WEEK !
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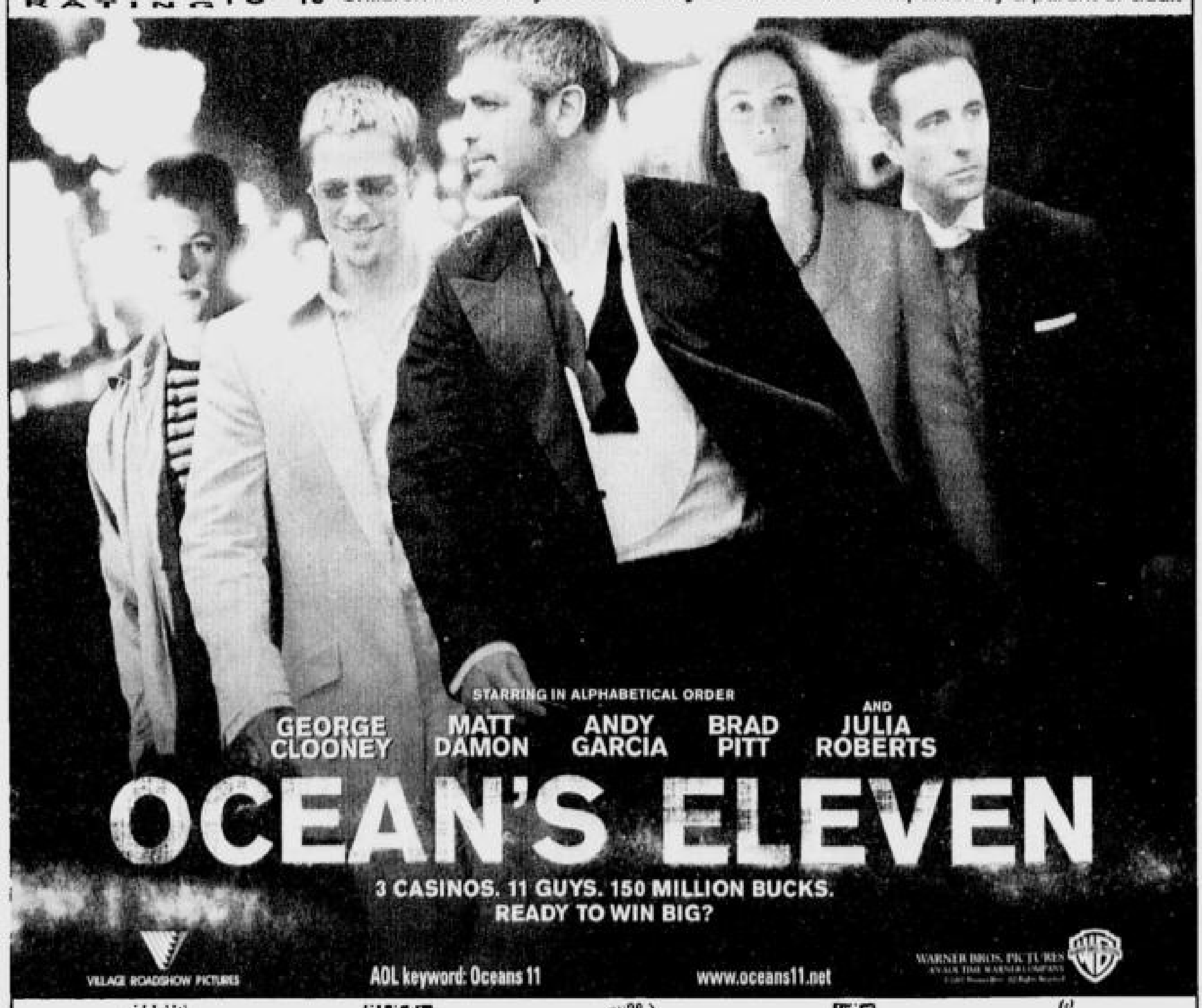

STARRING IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER
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Lea Salonga concert tickets sold at black market prices

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

IF you're having a hard time getting tickets to **Lea Salonga**'s Broadway concert on Jan. 31 and Feb. 1 at the PICC, blame the block buyers.

Because tickets to a Lea Salonga show are always a big seller, block buyers purchased a large chunk of the Broadway show tickets from outlets, particularly Ticket World. Then they sell the tickets at black market prices. They sell the original P3,000 ticket, for example, for P5,000, the P1,200 for P3,000.

The show's marketing man, **Chito Cabalu**, said there is nothing illegal about this. He added this is not the first time this is being done with tickets to a Lea Salonga show.

During Lea's three-month stint in the Manila production of "Miss Saigon," the P4,000 tickets sold for as much as P10,000. And we heard that most of the buyers were Filipino-Chinese families or foreigners.

Cabalu said that in the first two weeks that Bayo, the concert producer, released the tickets to the outlets, 55 percent were already sold even without any publicity yet. By the time the press conference for the show was held, two weeks before the show, 75 percent of the tickets had been sold, he said.

No wonder **Ferdie Agustin** of Bayo is grinning from ear to ear. Lea's Broadway concert is Bayo's first production venture and this early, it is already apparent that it is a success, a sold-out show.

In case you haven't seen their huge billboards, Lea is the Bayo image model. We heard that her contract, which was supposed to end in June, has been extended for another six months.

Last Monday, Lea started daily rehearsals for the concert with the San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra, which will be conducted by her brother **Gerard**, who is also the show's musical director.

On Sunday, Feb. 3, Lea returns to Los Angeles.

Fan day

TALK about being a big fan of Lea Salonga. A long-time Lea admirer flew from Zamboanga to Manila last Sunday to catch the final performance of "Proof" at the GSIS Theater.

Purita Mas wrote to this column last December and gave Lea the lyrics of two songs — "Midnight Blue" and "Love is Stronger Far Than We."

When Purita told me she would fly to Manila just to watch "Proof," I arranged for her to meet and greet Lea backstage after Sunday's matinee performance. Purita gave Lea sarongs from Mindanao, an advance gift for the star's 31st birthday on Feb. 22.

After meeting Lea in person, Purita sent us this text message: "I was able to meet Lea in her dressing room right after the great show. She is very sweet, friendly and beautiful. Today is the best day of my entire life. Thanks to you."

Thanks to "Proof" director **Bobby Garcia** and production manager **Lisa Camus**, who made it possible for Purita to meet Lea.

Purita's effort delighted Lea's mom, **Ligaya Salonga**, who told Purita to also watch Lea's Broadway concert on Thursday.

Garcia will also direct the two-night concert, which BMG Records will record live and which a still undisclosed network will later air.

Celebrity night

ONE OF my favorite night haunts, Dish, at the 3/F of Rockwell's Powerplant Mall, has a big event tonight.

More than a dozen stars will act as bartenders in the "Celebrity Cocktails Dish Out," happening only tonight starting 9 p.m.

The stars will take orders, mix, pour and serve drinks all for the sake of fun and charity, since the event is a benefit for Kabalikat Buhay Foundation.

"Celebrity Cocktails" is the brainchild of the indefatigable Dish owners **Philip Cu-Unjieng** and **EJ Litton**.

It started with the desire to help the less fortunate that's why Philip and EJ thought of the celebrity event.

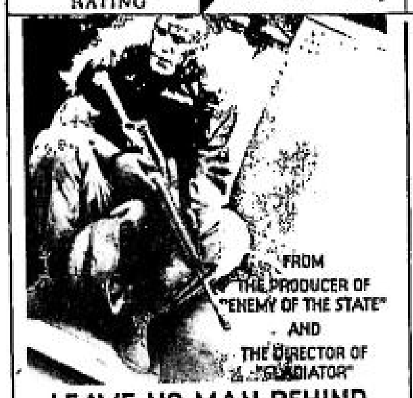
Kabalikat Buhay Foundation, meanwhile, helps out the poor, street children, abused kids, juvenile delinquents, unwed mothers, the elderly and the disabled.

The stellar cast of Dish bartenders include gorgeous male and female stars such as **Diether Ocampo, Troy Montero, Victor Neri, JM Rodriguez, Derek Ramsey, Kenjie Marquez, Assunta de Rossi, Mylene Dizon, G Tongi, Vina Morales, Bianca Araneta, Pia Guanio, Angel Aquino, Daphne Oseña** and **Julia Clarete**.

"Celebrity Cocktails Dish Out" is open to the public. Call 898-1771 or 898-1824 for details.

CELEBRITY bartender Derek Ramsey.

MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult


FROM THE PRODUCER OF "ENEMY OF THE STATE" AND THE DIRECTOR OF "GLADIATOR"

LEAVE NO MAN BEHIND
BLACK HAWK DOWN
sony.com/BlackHawkDown
REVOLUTION STUDIOS

All star cast!

"The best war movie I've seen!"
-- Larry King, CNN

From Ridley Scott, acclaimed director of GLADIATOR and Jerry Bruckheimer, producer of PEARL HARBOR comes a war epic voted by *Time Magazine* as one of the best films of the year.

The all-star cast includes the brightest names in young Hollywood: Josh Hartnett of PEARL HARBOR, Ewan McGregor of MOULIN ROUGE and Orlando Bloom, the well-loved Legolas in LORD OF THE RINGS.

Columbia Pictures' BLACK HAWK DOWN is the true story of elite American soldiers on a mission to stop a ruthless Somalian warlord in 1993.

Don't miss this must-see movie event, described by CNN's Larry King as "the best war movie I've ever seen."

OPENS TODAY !

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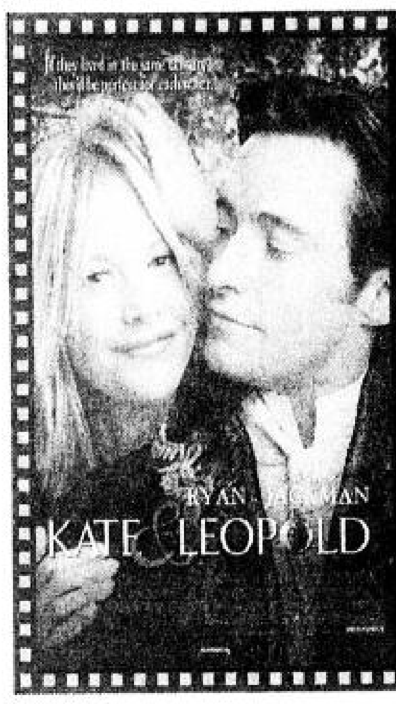
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

HEARTS IN ATLANTIS - P13	BLACK HAWK DOWN - P13	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE - P13
11:25, 1:30, 3:35, 5:40, 7:45, 9:50	12:40, 3:30, 6:20, 9:10	11:40, 1:40, 3:40, 5:40, 7:40, 9:40
OCEAN'S ELEVEN - P13	BEHIND ENEMY LINES - P13	BLACK HAWK DOWN - P13
12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00	12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30	1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10

Matinee, P80, Mon.-Fri.,11:00 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.


If they lived in the same century they'd be perfect for each other.
RYAN · JACKMAN
KATE & LEOPOLD

AYALA CINEMAS
GLORIETTA 1 & 4 / GREENBELT
ALABANG TOWN CENTER

THE PERFECT VALENTINE DATE MOVIE OF THE YEAR!

KATE&LEOPOLD
starring HUGH JACKMAN and MEG RYAN
MTRCB Rating: General Patronage
OPENS ON FEBRUARY 6!
What Drives You CALTEX SKYFILMS

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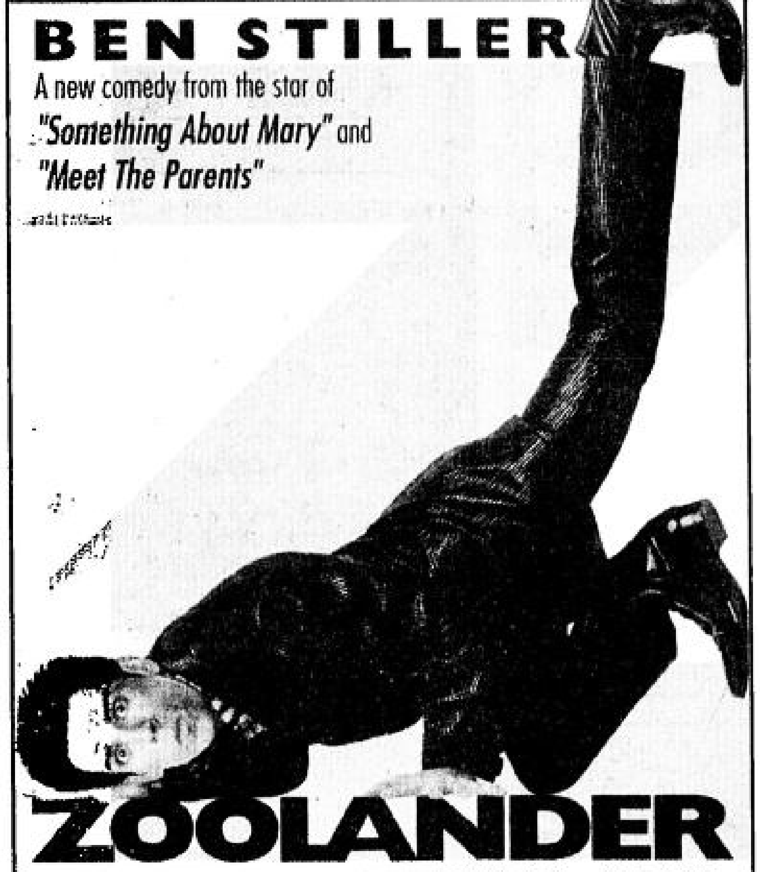
BEN STILLER
A new comedy from the star of "Something About Mary" and "Meet The Parents"



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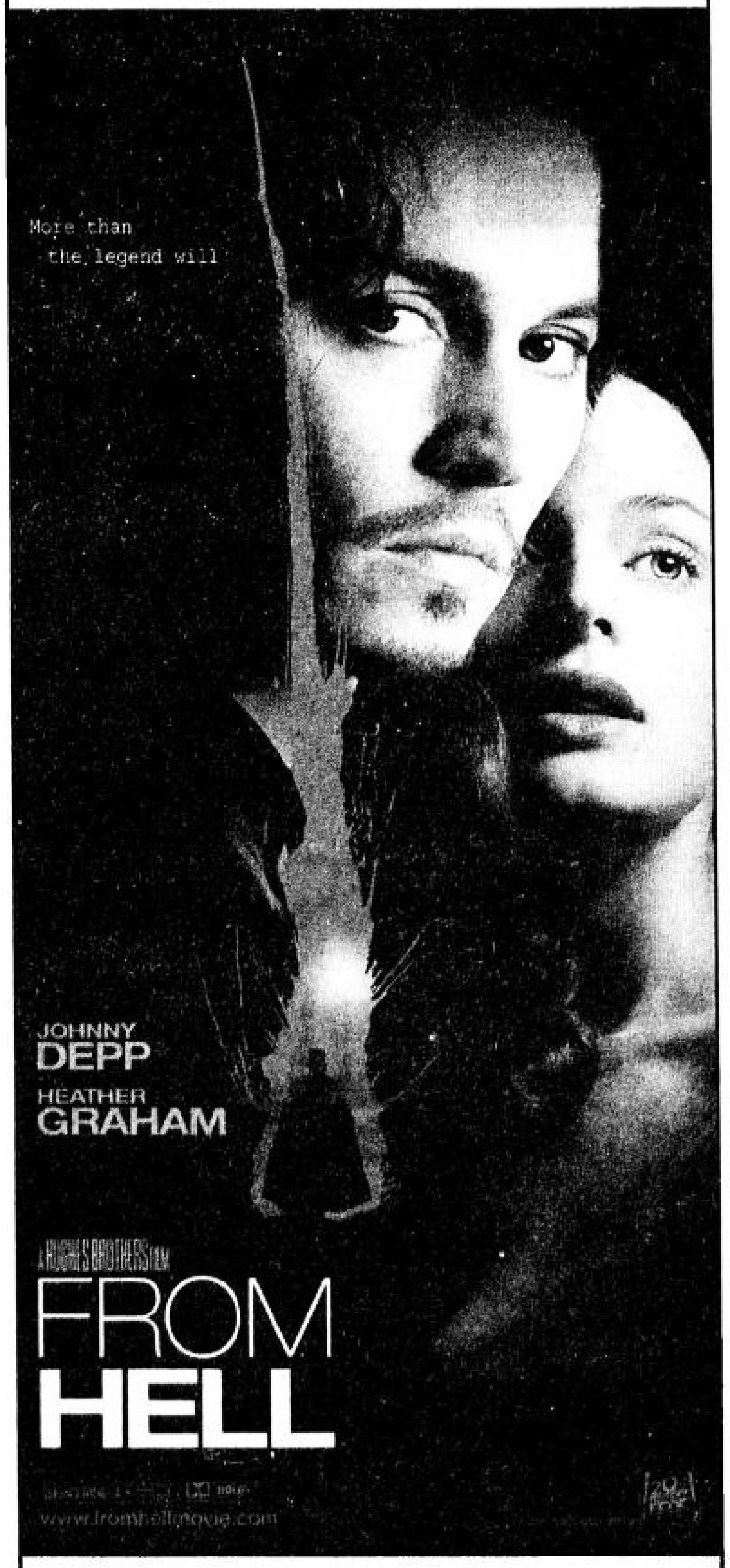
Matet de Leon

May Pag-ibig pa Kaya?

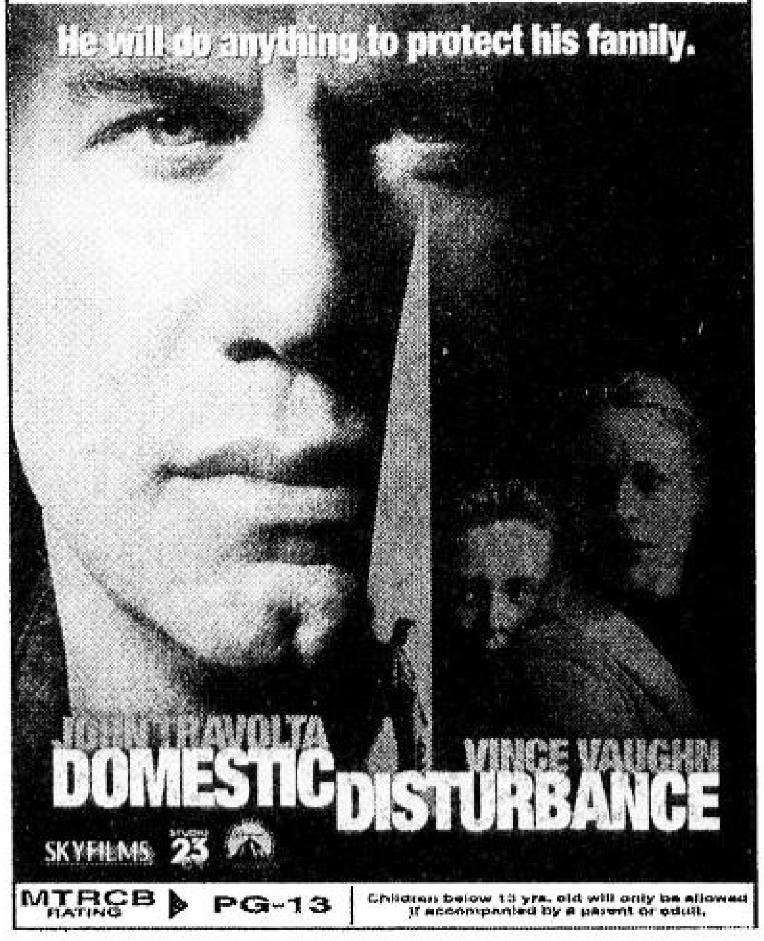
STARLIGHT FILMS

MTRCB RATING R-18 Special thanks to: 93.9 KC FM K-Lite E! RX93.1



OPENS FEBRUARY 6 !

TODAY terror meets its match!



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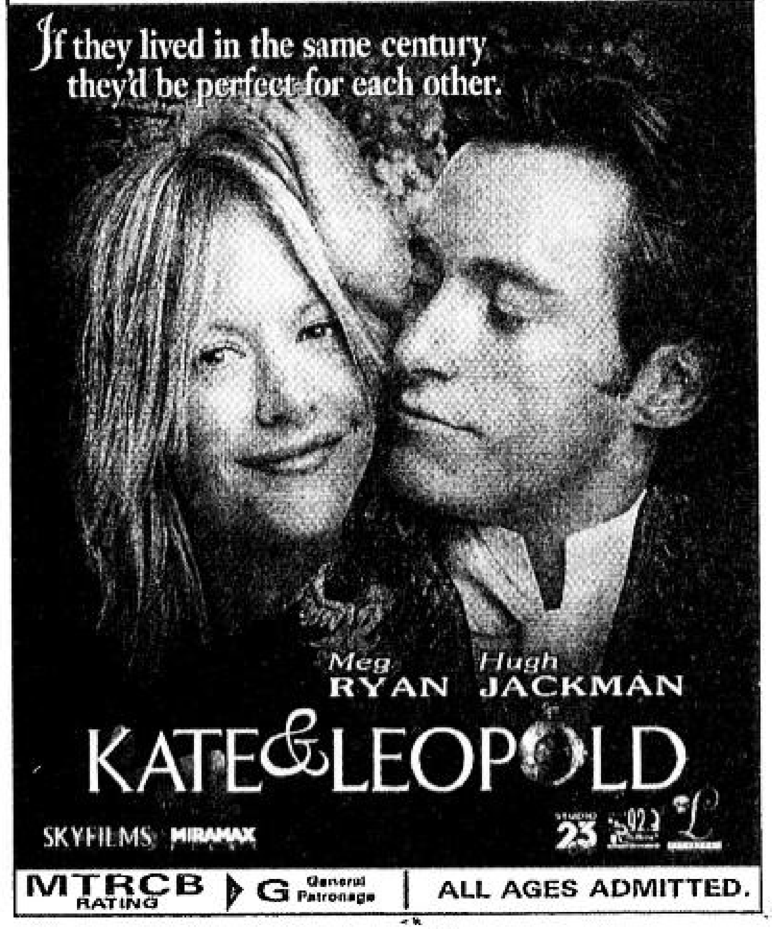
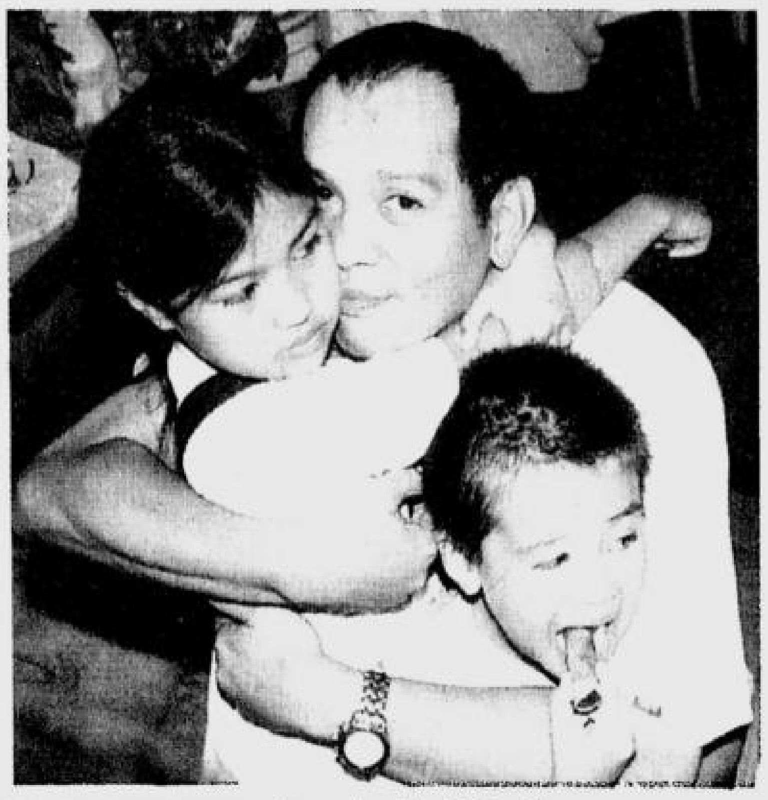
THE BEST DATE MOVIE OF THE YEAR
OPENS FEB. 6


If they lived in the same century they'd be perfect for each other.
Meg RYAN
Hugh JACKMAN
KATE & LEOPOLD
SKYFILMS MIRAMAX
STUDIO 23

MTRCB RATING G General Patronage ALL AGES ADMITTED.

ENTERTAINMENT

Louie C. Camino, Editor



Joey: Please spare Alma, for the children's sake

By Leah Salterio

"SHE'S still the mother of my kids. I want to protect my children. I want them to have a normal life, especially outside the home."

Actor and Parañaque City Mayor Joey Marquez was referring to his estranged wife, actress Alma Moreno. Despite their separation, he said he wanted her spared from the negative writeups about the breakup of their marriage.

"*Bugbog sarado na si* Ness *sa* media (The media have beaten her black and blue)," Marquez told the Inquirer yesterday morning in a voice that sounded tired. "I'd like to appeal for sobriety and consideration for her feelings. I have to think of my children."

Marquez admitted that he and Moreno are now separated after 12 years, but he also claimed that they are not seeking divorce. They were married in Las Vegas in 1989 and then again in Manila in 1995. They have three children of their own, plus an adopted child.

Before their marriage, they had children with other partners.

Nagging reports say Marquez and Moreno separated because he found out that she was having an affair with another, younger man. But Marquez refused to confirm this.

"Help us solve the problem in our own way," he said. "I hope the public will stop speculating and give us time for ourselves."

SINGLE FATHER Joey Marquez lunches with his kids—Win-Win and VJ (top) and Yeoj (above, left)—in school yesterday.

He did admit that Moreno had moved out of their house in Tahanan Village, Parañaque. She is said to be staying in a house in Ayala Alabang.

Their children -- Yeoj, Win-Win, VJ and Em-Em -- are with Marquez. Vandolph, Moreno's son with comedian Dolphy, has moved to his father's house.

Marquez and Moreno talked to Vandolph and told him about the separation, according to a source close to the couple. Vandolph was in tears as he listened to his mother and Marquez, whom he calls "Daddy," the source said.

Marquez said he would not stop Moreno from visiting the children. "We still talk, we're very civil," he said.

Marquez said he would spend more time with the children now that Moreno has left. Yesterday noon, he brought food and had lunch with his children in school at Southville International in BF Parañaque.

"It is not very easy to be a mother and father," he said. "But the kids are okay. I have very loving kids."

Did Moreno's departure make him angry? "I'm just a human being," he said. "I've cried so many times. But I realized the best thing to do when you're angry is to pray.

"I've started to pray more. I know all this will pass. I just leave my fate to God. I know time heals all wounds."

He refused to talk about the rumored lover of Moreno, said to be a 31-year-old DJ from Cebu, who caused the breakup.

But the source said Moreno left because she could no longer stand Marquez's womanizing.

But the source added that Marquez had no girlfriend when the breakup started.

Marquez said he'd rather remember the best parts of the marriage and leave the bad parts behind.

"I am optimistic," he said. "I know something better will come out of all this. God works in mysterious ways. He probably wants to tell me something."

He said he is not totally closing the door on his estranged wife.

"If God forgives us our sins, why can't we forgive the sins of others," he said.

Stars' scions get good notices

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

A RELATIVELY small film, "Orange County," is doing big business in the States these days, despite the continuing triumph at the tills of major productions like "The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring" and "Ocean's Eleven." What's the secret of its unexpected success?

The movie has no big stars, but it *does* have good genetics going for it: it's young stars are **Colin Hanks**, **Tom**'s boy, and **Schuyler Fish**, **Sissy Spacek**'s daughter. And, for good measure, it's directed by **Jake Kasdan**, the 27-year-old son of veteran megman **Lawrence Kasdan**.

What's the verdict on these young "upstarts?" Colin more than passes muster and is praised for having the same "everyman" liability and vulnerability that has made his dad a screen superstar.

For her part, Schuyler is seen to evince some of her mom's thespic intensity. And Jake Kasdan is complimented for his ability to direct "with great heart."

Now that their scions have gotten good notices, will the older Hanks, Spacek and Kasdan put themselves out to pasture? Not hardly. Established Hollywood "dynasties" like the Fondas, Baldwins, Sheens and Bridgeses have proven that several generations of movie clans can enjoy simultaneous success—the more, the merrier!

Still making films at age 99

TALK about artistic longevity, German filmmaker **Leni Riefenstahl** beats everyone hands down: she's already 99 years old, but she's still making movies.

In fact, she's completed her latest film, the 45-minute "Underwater Impressions," in time for her 100th birthday, this August!

If Riefenstahl's name sounds familiar, she became famous (or infamous, depending on people's point of view) in the '30s when she made some pro-Hitler movies.

But observers are agreed that she was a master at using the movie camera and editing for psychological manipulation. We were fortunate enough to view her 1938 film, "Olympia," at film school, and we found ourselves awed by its powerful images of German athletes competing in the Olympic Games in Berlin.

Riefenstahl's intention was to make the German athletes look stronger and more muscular than the sports heroes from other countries by photographing them from low angles and in high contrast, and she succeeded brilliantly.

It *was* manipulation, but it was so effective that viewers allowed themselves to be manipulated by the cunningly creative filmmaker.

Since Riefenstahl's time, other filmmakers have used her psychologically-persuasive techniques, but for more positive ends.

'13 Ghosts'

IN THE hit frightfest, "13 Ghosts," **Tony Shalhoub** plays a man who, along with his children (portrayed by **Shannon Elizabeth** and **Alee Roberts**), mourns the death of his wife in a fire that has left the family homeless.

Matthew Lillard plays a psychic who *tries* to help the mansion's new owners get rid for the non-rent-paying spooks.

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3 LOGO THISSIDEUP
4 LOGO BZZ
5 LOGO SUNSMILE1
6 LOGO KABAB1
7 LOGO F3
8 LOGO PUTT1
9 LOGO ROO1
10 LOGO POPPER1

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LOGO AIRFORCE
LOGO UFO2
LOGO BUNNIE1
LOGO SWIM1
LOGO FEET1
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LOGO FRIENDS2
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PIC GUESSWHO1
PIC HAPPYANIV
PIC HAPPYBDAY
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PIC ITSAGIRL
PIC JEEPNEY1
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Somebody Come And Play	CTW SESAME STREET	TONE COMENPLAY
If Moon Was Cookie	CTW SESAME STREET	TONE COOKYMOON
One Man And His Dog	Traditional	TONE ONEMAN
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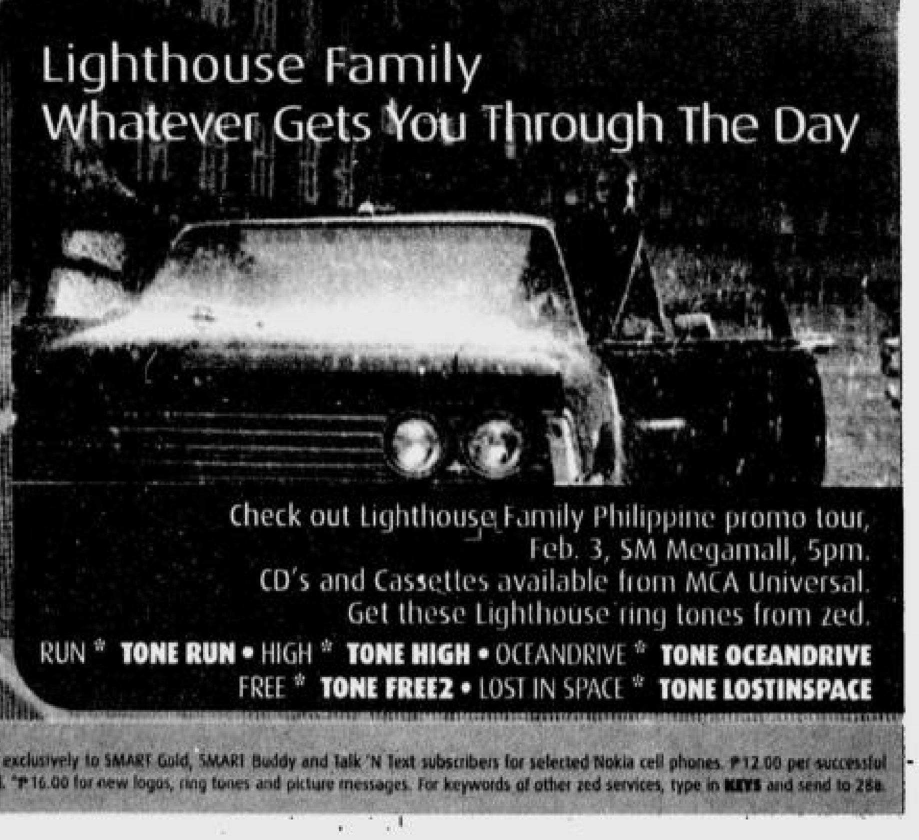
Don't Hold Back	Gary Valenciano	TONE DONTHOLD
On The Road	Gary Valenciano	TONE ONDROAD
Move Your Body	Gary Valenciano	TONE MOVEURBODY

Top ten ring tones:

1	Superman Theme		TONE SUPERMAN
2	Smooth Criminal	Alien Ant Farm	TONE SMOOTHCRI
3	Lady Marmalade	Christina Aguilera	TONE MARMALADE
4	Butterfly	Crazy Town	TONE BUTTERFLY
5	Lambada		TONE LAMBADA
6	Forever More	Side A Band	TONE 4EVERMORE
7	Pagdating Ng Panahon	Aiza Seguerra	TONE PAGDATING
8	Tell Me	Side A	TONE TELLME
9	That's Why	Gary Valenciano	TONE THATSWHY
10	Kakaba Kaba	Tootsie Guevarra	TONE KABA



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BUSINESS

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Gov't urges removal of RP from laundering blacklist

THE MACAPAGAL administration has asked the world's money-laundering watchdog to be taken off its blacklist of non-complying countries at the meeting in Hong Kong.

"I am very optimistic that we are now on our way to being delisted," said Sen. Francis Pangilinan, chair of the justice committee of the Senate.

He was speaking after presenting Manila's case at a closed-door meeting of the Financial Action Task Force's working group on Non-Complying Countries and Territories (NCCTs) on Monday in Hong Kong.

Pangilinan said he appealed to the task force to fast-track his country's readmission to the organization because its economic recovery was endangered by counter-measures from developed countries.

If the latest attempt for relief fails, the Philippines faces additional penalties because its new anti-money laundering law passed last year was judged to be inadequate by the task force.

The world's banks are required by their home regulators to prepare detailed reports on transactions with NCCTs, which can cause crippling delays to legitimate business deals and jeopardize genuine investment flows.

A plenary meeting of the 29-member FATF is to officially take place here today until Friday—the first to be held since FATF's adoption of an action plan to combat terrorist financing in an extraordinary plenary meeting held in Washington D.C. in October.

Hong Kong narcotic commissioner Clarie Lo holds the current presidency of FATF—an independent body based at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) headquartered in Paris.

Its 29 members include most of the world's developed countries, as well as the European Commission and the Gulf Co-operation Council.

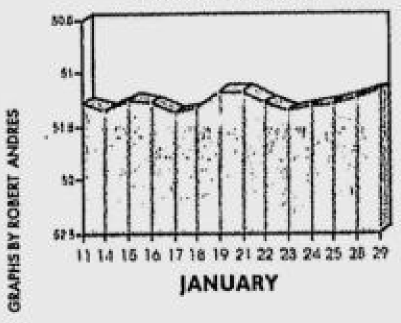
The Philippines passed an anti-money laundering law in September last year, narrowly beating a deadline set by the FATF.

In December, the FATF asked the government to clarify some provisions of the law, specifically on the threshold set that would trigger an investigation. *AFP*

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P51.165 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Jan. 29,2002

¥133.04 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Jan. 29, 2002

GOLD: $277.90/278.40
per ounce Hong Kong, Jan. 28, 2002

JAN. 29, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.159286	1.000000	51.2650
Japan	Yen	0.008684	0.007491	0.3840
United Kingdom	Pound	1.634593	1.410000	72.2837
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.148641	0.128218	6.5731
Switzerland	Franc	0.679614	0.586235	30.0533
Canada	Dollar	0.724871	0.625274	32.0547
Singapore	Dollar	0.632591	0.545673	27.9739
Australia	Dollar	0.598434	0.516209	26.4635
Bahrain	Dinar	3.075192	2.652661	135.9887
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.309151	0.266674	13.6710
Brunei	Dollar	0.630801	0.544129	27.8948
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000111	0.000096	0.0049
Thailand	Baht	0.026317	0.022701	1.1638
UAE	Dirham	0.315709	0.272331	13.9610
Korea	Won	0.000885	0.000763	0.0391
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.862600	44.2212
Brazil	Real	0.477073	0.411523	21.0967
Denmark	Kroner	0.134464	0.115989	5.9462
India	Rupee	0.024017	0.020717	1.0621
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.305075	0.263158	13.4908
Mexico	New Peso	0.126470	0.109093	5.5927
New Zealand	Dollar	0.488182	0.421106	21.5880
Norway	Kroner	0.127534	0.110011	5.6397
Pakistan	Rupee	0.019338	0.016681	0.8552
South Africa	Rand	0.100720	0.086881	4.4540
Sweden	Kroner	0.108182	0.093318	4.7839
Syria	Pound	0.026898	0.023202	1.1895
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.033198	0.028637	1.4681
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.001520	0.001311	0.0672

STOCK MARKET

Shares fall 1.1%

SHARE prices fell 1.1 percent yesterday due to continued profit-taking following last week's rally, analysts said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index dropped 14.84 points to close at 1,304.39.

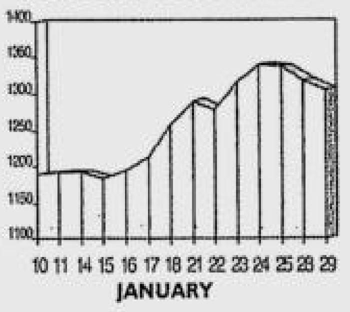
"Considering the huge gains in the past two weeks, it's still very tempting for investors to take profits on a technical basis," said Mark Alan Canizares of Citiseconline.com.

"It's still correcting, consolidating," said Joey Roxas of Eagle Equities Inc., although he remarked that many of the stocks are "approaching oversold levels."

Traders said the market's decline was likely to continue as investors wait for the official release of fourth quarter gross domestic product (GDP) growth numbers tomorrow and announcements of corporate results for 2001.

Volume turnover rose to 916 million shares but value fell to P596 million from 882.6 million shares worth P2.47 billion on Monday. *AFP*

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Petron keeps top spot

PETRON Corp. retained its market leadership in 2001 but only Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. kept its sales growth from falling among the Big Three.

According to the Philippine Institute of Petroleum, Petron cornered 38.3 percent of all the Big Three's combined market share in local and export sales.

Pilipinas Shell trailed closely with 38 percent while Caltex Philippines had 23.8 percent.

The Big Three's combined market share represent about 90 percent of the total market.

PIP had no available information for the whole of 2001 that included data from the new players.

Among the oil majors, Shell posted a flat growth rate of 0.3 percent with 40.97 million barrels sold last year compared to 40.86 million barrels in 2000.

Petron's sales shrank by 2.4 percent from 42.3 million barrels sold in 2000 to 41.3 million barrels in 2001.

Caltex sold 26.7 million barrels in 2001, down by 3.9 percent from 25.6 million barrels in 2000.

The oil majors suffered a combined sales drop of 1.8 percent.

Internet kiosks deal signed

QNET Communications Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of investment holding technology firm AJOnet Holdings, recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with SJG Inc., a Philippine-based company with operations in the Middle East.

Under the deal, SJG will deploy and manage Qnet kiosks in Saudi Arabia where there are 500,000 Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs). The first will be located at the Philippine Embassy in Riyadh. The agreement also covers the purchase of Qnet's videoconferencing software "Qware" for the Qnet kiosks and terminals that SJG will set up in Saudi Arabia.

Qnet is the premier provider of video-conferencing facilities to OFWs and their families. At present, there are 24 Qnet kiosks and terminals in the Philippines and Hong Kong. Deployment plans for key European cities are also underway. Qnet facilities are also capable of web surfing, video mail, and other IT-enabled services.

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SEAOIL

Ayala lures Xavier School to put up Laguna campus

By Elena R. Torrijos

AYALA Land Inc., the property arm of the Ayala family, signed a memorandum of agreement with Xavier School to provide a 15-hectare lot in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, and up to P120 million in property development for the establishment of the second branch of the Jesuit-run school in the country, a source familiar with the matter said.

The agreement calls for Xavier School, which currently operates an exclusive grade school and high school in San Juan, to start the second school in Sta. Rosa within five years from the agreement. After either 25 or 50 years, the lot and developments on the property will be turned over to Xavier School, the source said.

ALI is currently selling lots in the area for P10,000 per sq. m., bringing the value of the 15-hectare piece of property at P1.5 billion.

In another development, Philippine Rating Services Corp., an affiliate of Standard & Poor's, yesterday announced that it has assigned a rating of PRS Aa to the planned P2 billion in bonds to be issued by ALI.

The publicly listed property firm intends to issue up to P2 billion worth of 5- to 7-year bonds for re-financing purposes as well as to fund various development projects. BPI Capital Corp. will be lead underwriter for the bonds.

A PRS Aa rating means that the issue has a large margin of protection.

Philratings said the PRS Aa reflected ALI's strong business franchise, balanced asset portfolio, stable earnings profile, conservative capital structure, and well-defined business strategy that has seen the company through currently depressed market conditions.

"With rental properties contributing recurring earnings and a strong brand equity supporting sales of development properties, earnings generation remains satisfactory. Interest coverage has been maintained at a more than adequate level despite the inherent volatility in the property development sector," Philratings said.

The rating agency also noted that ALI was seeking to build further its recurring income streams through the expansion of its retail rental properties while also increasing its focus on the more resilient mass-housing segment and venturing into the core mid-residential market.

Philratings added that the property firm's capital structure was still conservative although P6 billion in long-term commercial paper would be due this March and April.

RFM fully pays convertible bonds worth $65M

WITH its cash hoard from the sale of soft drink unit Cosmos Bottling Corp., food and beverage conglomerate RFM Corp. yesterday announced the full settlement of its remaining convertible bonds that fell due in May last year worth $65 million.

"The situation was difficult and tough decisions had to be made. We have assured the bondholders that the bonds would be fully settled," RFM president and CEO Jose Concepcion III told the Philippine Stock Exchange.

RFM was unable to retire the five-year bonds last May, which then amounted to $85 million, but its creditors had agreed to give it more time to reduce these obligations.

With the sale of RFM's stake in several businesses—including Cosmos, Consumer Banking Corp., PST Technologies and Blue Bay tuna—the conglomerate's financial position improved dramatically. RFM has reverted to net cash position even after it declared a P2-billion cash dividend and bought back its own shares from a US investor for P1.05 billion.

RFM had also worked out various bonds buyback and other refinancing deals that reduced its obligations from $85 million to $65 million.

The sale of RFM's 82.3-percent stake in Cosmos to San Miguel Corp. was completed last Jan. 3. The valuation for 100 percent of Cosmos stood at P14 billion, bringing RFM's net proceeds to P11.5 billion.

Deutsche Bank seeks mortgage cover for $17-M Belle loan

By Doris C. Dumlao

A LEGAL battle has erupted between Belle Corp. and foreign lender Deutsche Bank over the latter's demand for security cover for its $17 million in loan exposure to the leisure estate and gaming company.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, Belle corporate secretary Bayani Tan said the German bank had filed a case with the Regional Trial Court of Pasig demanding that certain assets held by Belle be mortgaged in its favor.

Belle's contention was that the bank's demands were without any valid basis. Furthermore, Tan said that even before the matter could be resolved, Deutsche Bank had filed an amended complaint seeking to include Highlands Prime Leisure Properties Inc. as an additional party.

Highlands Prime is a property unit spun off by Belle to raise funds to address its P6.6 billion in total debts. Originally planned to list on the PSE last year, Highlands Prime, whose 51-percent stake was acquired by retail tycoon Henry Sy, was formed to continue the development of more than 600 hectares of Belle's core property assets.

The assets to be transferred to Highlands Prime consisted of subdivision lots and unsold condominium units in Tagaytay Highlands International Golf Club Inc. in Tagaytay City, Cavite, and Tagaytay Midlands Golf Club Inc. in Batangas.

"Be that as it may, Belle's position remains that the filing of the action is premature and that no meeting of the minds was ever reached in so far as the properties to be mortgaged are concerned," Tan said.

Belle's principal debt of $17 million to Deutsche Bank had been restructured in the past but will already mature later this year. Belle is thus negotiating for another restructuring agreement with the German lender.

A company source said Belle was willing to give security to cover the loans and had, in fact, held some discussions with Deutsche Bank about it.

However, the source said Belle's executive committee did not approve of the German bank's proposal to pledge some assets that would eventually be transferred to Highlands Prime, fearing that such action would jeopardize the unit's planned initial public offering.

"If you transfer pledged assets, the value of the loan will be deducted from the market capitalization of Highlands Prime so that will not be economical as it will reduce the proceeds from the IPO," the source said.

"Since we can't agree, we have to go back to the drawing board. We're still willing to provide security but we have to discuss some more," the source said.

The source noted that Belle never heard from Deutsche Bank again until the case was filed with the court.

SEC backs Itogon's exemption from PSE listing rule

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission last week overruled the Philippine Stock Exchange's decision blocking Philweb.com's plan to buy into Itogon Suyoc Mining Inc. without a rights offering.

The PSE earlier rejected ISMI's petition for exemption from a PSE rule on additional listing of shares.

In a letter to the PSE last Jan. 24, SEC Associate Commissioner Fe Eloisa Gloria said the commission believed that ISMI had complied with the conditions for exemption from the rule. The rule would have required a rights offering before Philweb.com Inc. could subscribe to and list 12 billion in unissued shares of ISMI.

Last July, ISMI and Philweb.com Inc. advised the PSE that they have entered into a memorandum of agreement assigning Philweb to manage the transformation of dormant ISMI from a mining company to one that will engage in information technology, media, telecommunications businesses and/or other similar industry. It was also tasked to identify and negotiate with investors for the infusion of the necessary capital or assets for its projects.

In consideration of the services to be rendered by Philweb and in order to generate investor confidence, Philweb will subscribe to 12 billion in unissued ISMI shares at a par value of P0.01 per share. Philweb will make a partial payment of 21 percent on the subscription at any time after the approval by the ISMI board but not later than 30 days from other necessary regulatory approvals.

The PSE listing committee, however, ruled that the subscription of Philweb to ISMI's unissued shares should be subject to the PSE rules on additional listing of shares.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Tuesday, January 29, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.2	24,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	64.5	64.5	64	64.5	352,700
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	13,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	29	29	28	28	398,100
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	198	198	195	197	54,140
Philippine National Bank	65.5	66.5	65.5	66.5	6,500
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13.25	13.25	12.75	12.75	3,600
Union Bank of the Phil.	16.25	16.25	16	16.25	120,400
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.3	1.32	1.26	1.26	165,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	60,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1290	1295	1290	1290	500
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1010	1010	1005	1005	490
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	31.5	32	31.5	31.5	100,900
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.47	0.48	0.47	0.47	6,410,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	675	700	670	675	29,600
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.037	0.038	0.036	0.036	5,500,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	25,000
Piltel	0.35	0.41	0.35	0.4	4,100,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	505	505	500	505	189,220
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.024	0.025	0.024	0.025	298,400,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	26	27	26	27	58,900
Manila Electric Co. B	38	39	37.5	39	500,800
Petron Corp.	1.82	1.82	1.76	1.78	7,634,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.02	100,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.75	2.8	2.7	2.75	2,013,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.33	90,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	1.5	1.62	1.5	1.62	36,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	7,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	60,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	10,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.25	13.5	856,900
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	25	25	23.5	23.5	189,100
RFM Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.85	845,000
San Miguel Corp. A	45	45	44	44	391,200
San Miguel Corp. B	58	58	57.5	58	315,200
Universal Robina Corp.	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.5	137,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.65	0.66	0.65	0.66	240,000
Ayala Corp.	6	6	5.9	6	11,540,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.74	1.74	1.72	1.74	638,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	12	12	11.75	11.75	300
Ajo Net Holdings Inc.	0.81	0.84	0.8	0.84	520,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	13,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	50,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.81	0.82	0.77	0.77	31,590,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.31	0.36	0.31	0.36	3,810,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	1,000,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.3	3,330,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	5,900,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.02	1.02	1	1	1,508,000
F&J Prince Hldgs. B	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	1,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	29.5	30	29.5	30	302,700
Global Equities Inc.	0.185	0.22	0.185	0.195	21,690,000
Ionics Inc.	8	8	7.7	7.7	131,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.66	1.66	172,000
Keppel Phil. Holdings	1	1	1	1	140,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.54	1.54	1.5	1.5	50,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	400,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	300,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.85	0.85	0.83	0.83	2,510,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	240,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.36	0.36	0.34	0.34	5,100,000
Music Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.31	0.31	5,130,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	350,000
Philtread Hdgs. Corp. B	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	1,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.79	0.8	0.79	0.8	80,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.36	0.37	0.35	0.36	520,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.165	0.18	2,550,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.3	350,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Metro Alliance Holdings-B	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	30,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	600,000
Pryce Corp.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	600,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	14.5	14.5	14	14	117,200
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp	0.47	0.47	0.46	0.46	410,000
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	5,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	80,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	310,000
Manila Jockey Club	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	20,000
Mondragon Intl Phils. Inc.	0.8	0.87	0.75	0.77	12,250,000
Philippine Racing Club	4.5	4.5	4.3	4.3	35,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs Corp. (Pdr)	32	32	32	32	1,793,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.- Pref.	720	720	720	720	50
Equitable PCI Bank-War	1.84	1.84	1.8	1.8	222,000
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	660	660	660	660	2,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	20,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.0065	0.007	0.006	0.007	133,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6	6	5.9	6	12,091,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	3,570,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.49	0.49	0.47	0.47	5,930,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.3	0.3	27,420,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.26	2.28	2.2	2.26	9,150,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	10,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	1,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	200,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.8	2,449,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	1,200,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	220,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	10,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't.	2.65	2.7	2.65	2.7	16,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.037	0.043	0.037	0.042	165,600,000
Omico Corp.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0036	0.0036	15,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	3,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	40,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	300,000
OIL					
Interport Res. B	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	2,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	45,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,198,430	48,717,900.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	610,826,170	419,537,185.00
PRO	62,021,000	120,479,940.00
Mining	194,176,000	7,106,450.00
OIL	47,000,000	278,000.00
GRAND TOTALS:	915,221,600	596,119,475.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	530.13	DOWN 2.27
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,775.82	DOWN 23.68
PRO	583.82	DOWN 10.78
Mining	1,170.55	UP 12.04
OIL	1.98	DOWN 0.06
All Shares Index	713.65	DOWN 6.58
Composite	1,304.39	DOWN 14.84

NO. OF ADVANCES: 24; NO. OF DECLINES: 52; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 34; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 110; NO. OF TRADES: 3,575

DISCLOSURES

AYALA Corp. confirmed it would retire $77 million worth of Euro convertible notes it issued in 1996.

* * *

KEPPEL Philippines Marine Inc. bought 100,000 of its shares at P0.31 per share.

* * *

KEPPEL Philippines Holdings Inc. bought 200,000 of its shares at P1 per share.

* * *

BOGO-MEDELLIN Milling Co. Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on March 12, 10 a.m. at the ballroom of its principal office in Jardine Davies Building, Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of Jan. 31 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. said it has been focusing on its core business and liability management, thus, the planned acquisition of GMA Network Inc. has been shelved.

* * *

BANK of the Philippine Islands Stock Transfer Agency resigned as transfer agent of **Landoil Resources Corp., BHI Holdings Inc.** and **MRC Allied Industries Inc.**

* * *

MANILA Mining Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 15, 10 a.m. at the Rigodon Ballroom of the Peninsula Manila Hotel. Record date is on Feb. 20.

* * *

THE BOARD of **Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.** accepted the resignation of Alfonso Yuchengco III as director, executive vice chair, chief executive officer and member of the executive, trust and credit and collection committees of the bank. Cesar Virata was elected acting CEO while Tomas Alcantara was appointed member of the advisory board. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

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COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

BANKERS, like women, are also entitled to change their minds.

This is the short explanation why International Exchange Bank president Ramon Sy, at the 11th hour, never made the reported crossover to the bigger challenge that is the Philippine National Bank.

Apparently, the last-ditch meeting with senior iBank officers led by Antonio Moncupa, Sy's putative replacement, and Nilo Pacheco over the weekend finally convinced Sy that his loyalty lay with the bank he helped found and the officers corps he has assembled.

From what we have heard, Moncupa and Pacheco gave Sy the following spiel: They too had been offered far more lucrative contracts from other banks both local and foreign (Pacheco in particular turned down an offer from Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho to become the national treasurer) because they were committed to iBank and Sy; now that they have decided to stick out with Sy, Sy was now leaving them?

Cocktales was informed of Sy's decision to finally stay on with iBank Sunday afternoon; unfortunately, it was too late to revise the column that appeared on Monday, our presswork deadline being Saturday afternoon.

In the end, the happy outcome of this banking soap opera is that it showed to the public, although in a rather uncomfortable way, that iBank is staffed by competent and committed officers being coveted by other banks.

With Sy now out of the running, it looks like PBCom president Isidro Alcantara Jr. is on top of the very short list for the PNB presidency.

Incumbent PNB president Feliciano Miranda, who was plucked out of retirement from the old Central Bank where he was a deputy governor, had already set out a March 31 departure from PNB, apparently on the belief that a replacement, in this case Sy, had already been found.

Alcantara's advantage is that Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura is rooting for him, largely on account of the two having worked with PCIBank of the Lopez-Gokongwei era.

The bigger question, of course, is, does taipan Lucio Tan like him?

Heard through the grapevine

THE PRESIDENT of a major bank would most likely transfer to another bank following a series of major, apparently irreconcilable differences with his majority shareholders.

The only hurdle that remains is how to go about the disengagement without the bank suffering yet another credibility blow.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Leung assured of PSE term

By Doris C. Dumlao

NEWLY installed Philippine Stock Exchange president Ernest Leung is now assured of a new full term in office after obtaining support from opposing slates vying for seats in the 15-member PSE board during the annual elections on March 9.

In a press briefing yesterday, ousted president Ramon T. Garcia, who announced the partial list of candidates running under the banner of former PSE chair Robert Coyiuto, said he was content to serve the bourse again as a non-broker director and was not seeking to regain his former post.

Garcia, who also announced the platform of the Coyiuto-led party of which he is part of, said Leung should be given the chance to continue serving as PSE president. In fact, he said that Leung was among the five non-broker candidates who have so far joined the Coyiuto slate.

Aside from Leung and Garcia, the other non-broker candidates carried by the slate are reelectionists Joaquin Bernas of the Ateneo School of Law, Mario Camacho and former finance secretary Vicente Jayme.

Running against Coyiuto's slate is the group of Vivian Yuchengco of The First Resources Management and Securities Corp. Yuchengco, industry sources said, was joined so far by two other lady brokers, Alicia Arroyo of RCBC Securities and Marita Limlingan of Regina Capital.

Both Coyiuto and Yuchengco are incumbent PSE directors. In the case of Yuchengco, she has likewise supported Leung's appointment as the new president to serve the remaining term of Garcia.

Leung assumed office as PSE president only this year but his term will already expire in March unless given another term by the new board.

Garcia announced that the broker-candidates under the Coyiuto slate are: Eddie Gobing of Lucky Securities (reelectionist); Ramon "Raymond" Garcia Jr. of Diversified Financial Network or DFNN; Federico Lim of Belson Securities; Harry Liu of Summit Securities (reelectionist), and Edwin Luy of Triton Securities.

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- Chemical Technology - 3 years
- Tourist Travel Services - 1 year (Malolos)
- Hotel & Restaurant Mgmt - 2 years (Malolos)
- Junior Computer Secretarial - 2 years

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- Doctor of Philosophy in Mathematics Education
- Doctor of Public Administration
- Doctor of Philosophy in Pharmacy
- Doctor of Education (Ed D) major in: Psychology and Guidance/Curriculum and Supervision/Educational Management/Science Education
- Master of Arts (M.A.) major in: Behavioral Sciences/Educational Management/ Physical Education/English Language Teaching/English (Literature)/Southeast Asian Studies/Filipino/Guidance/H.E./Library Science Teaching/College Teaching Psychology/Educational Technology/Special Education
- Master of Music (M Music) major in: Applied Music/Music Education/Music Science (theory)
- Master of Business Administration (MBA)
- Master of Arts in Economics
- Master of Public Administration;
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US team prods gov't to review auto taxes

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

A TEAM of American trade officials is in the country to prod Malacañang to stop what it sees as the Philippine government's discrimination against US automakers and step up the country's anti-piracy campaign.

In a news conference yesterday, US Assistant Commerce Secretary William Lash III said his team was here to discuss trade relations between the Philippines and the United States.

The US team will hold talks on the Philippines' excise tax on motor vehicles and rising cases of intellectual property rights violations in the country, he said.

Lash said Washington was particularly concerned over the country's excise tax on motor vehicles that, he said, "discriminates" against US companies.

General Motors Corp. and Ford Motor Co., the world's No. 1 and No. 2 automakers, have invested millions of dollars into the country, and they expect to at least be given a level playing field, he said.

Lash was apparently alluding to the tax exemption enjoyed by Japanese assemblers on their Asian-utility vehicle models, including Toyota Motors Corp.'s Tamaraw Revo, Mitsubishi Motors Corp.'s Adventure and Isuzu Motors Inc.'s Crosswind.

Under the Bureau of Internal Revenue's rules, vehicles with a seating capacity of at least 10 are exempted from the excise tax.

While the rule was geared specifically to benefit AUVs, however, assemblers have used this as a loophole to gain a tax advantage for their more pricey sport-utility vehicles by adding jump seats in the back compartment.

Lash was obviously echoing the position of Ford, which has long complained of the tax advantage enjoyed by AUVs.

Ford, which only sells passenger cars and pickup trucks, has been lobbying for a flat excise tax on all vehicles regardless of engine size or seating capacity.

Lash said his team was also here to express Washington's disappointment with the Philippines' efforts to check what he said was the rampant violation of intellectual property rights.

Piracy robbed US companies of $200 million last year, he said.

Lash said it was not enough that the Philippines had rules outlawing the illegal copying of patented works. The government should be able to prosecute, penalize or jail those who violate the law, he said.

"Promises made should be promises kept," Lash stressed.

SUBIC FREEPORT'S CALL CENTER

Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Chair Felicito C. Payumo (center) signs a contract with Ralph Reese (right), CEO and co-founder of US-based Reese Brothers Communication and Commerce, and Crown Peak Hotel's Anthony Trillo (left) for the setting up of a state-of-the-art call center facility inside the Freeport zone. Reese will lease Crown Peak Hotel's 1,222-square-meter Cathy Ballroom center for the call center and hire about 2,000 Filipino telemarketers. Reese Brothers CEO Richard Bergman, SBMA director Sergio Cruz, investment department head Ding Mesiano and account officer Ronnie Yambao witnessed the signing of the contract.

Start Seoul flights or lose one slot, Cebu Pacific told

By Abigail L. Ho

THE CIVIL Aeronautics Board is giving the Gokongwei's flag carrier Cebu Pacific Air one last chance to make good on its promise to fly to Seoul by March 2 or risk losing one of its entitlements to rival carrier Philippine Airlines Inc.

"That's our other option. If Korea doesn't give us another frequency, we'll give Cebu Pacific an ultimatum to mount the (Seoul) flights on March 2. There will be no more extensions. If it won't do it by March 2, we'll split the four entitlements equally between Cebu Pacific and PAL," CAB vice chair Adelberto Yap said in a telephone interview yesterday.

The CAB on Monday asked the Korean government for an additional frequency entitlement so that both PAL and Cebu Pacific could get the number of slots they were seeking.

Korea has yet to respond to the country's request but the CAB is expecting a concrete answer from the Koreans within the week.

He said the CAB wanted to arrive at "a win-win solution" to the row between the country's two flag carriers over the four frequency entitlements the country got through its amended air service agreement with Korea in November last year.

Cebu Pacific had said it would start its Manila-Seoul flights in October. The schedule was moved to January and later to March.

"If Cebu Pacific still doesn't mount by March 2, it would seem they're just fooling us by holding on to the frequencies with no intention to mount," he said.

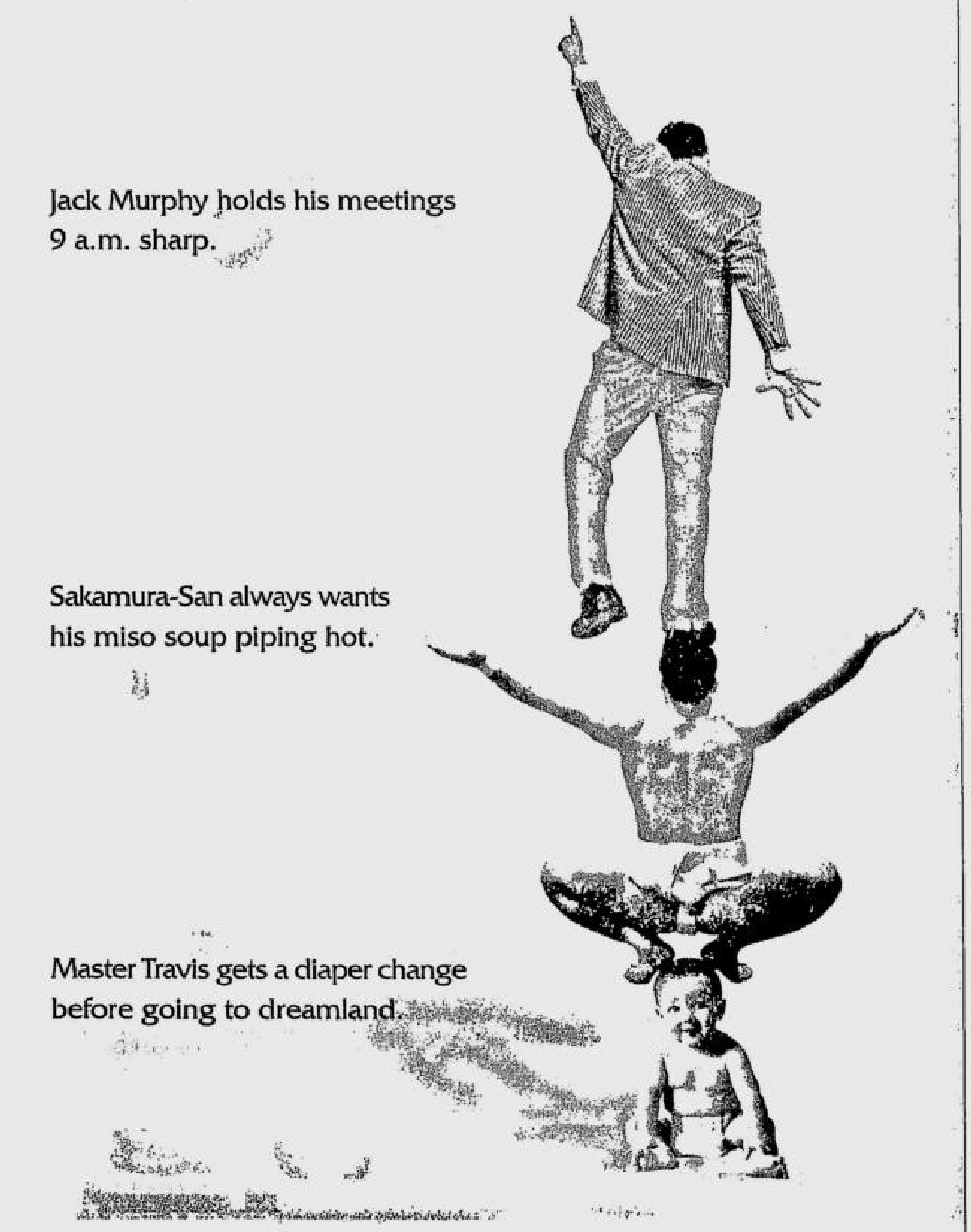
Yap said the CAB has yet to decide on what it would offer South Korea in exchange for the additional flight it was seeking.

"They (Korea) haven't told us yet what they want in return. We can give them another charter flight. They can fly to Cebu if they want," he said.

The CAB is planning to call PAL and Cebu Pacific representatives to another meeting next week to finally settle their dispute, Yap said.

"If all the approvals are in place, yes, we will fly on March 2," said Cebu Pacific vice president for corporate planning and external affairs Peggy Vera.

Cebu Pacific said it was still waiting for a foreign designation permit from Korea's Ministry of Construction and Transportation.



Jack Murphy holds his meetings 9 a.m. sharp.

Sakamura-San always wants his miso soup piping hot.

Master Travis gets a diaper change before going to dreamland.

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Meralco seeks waiver of ADB, World Bank loan condition

By Ronnel W. Domingo

MANILA Electric Co. has filed a petition with the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank seeking a waiver of its obligation to maintain a return on rate base of at least 8 percent, a Meralco official said last week.

Meralco treasurer Rafael Andrada explained that a waiver would save the power distributor from being held in technical default on its obligations to its creditors.

The firm owes the ADB and the World Bank a total of $200 million.

Andrada said that the petition was filed last month and that Meralco would also submit to the two institutions its audited financial report for 2001.

He said that if Meralco would not get a waiver, the company's chances of securing other loans would be diminished.

If the ADB and World Bank would act on the petition favorably, it would be the third consecutive year that Meralco would get a waiver from these institutions.

In an earlier interview, Andrada said Meralco was first granted a waiver in 1999 when its RORB, a measure of its profitability, started to deteriorate.

The firm's RORB is expected to slide to less than 4 percent in 2001 from 5.1 percent in 2000.

Meralco was hoping it could prop up its profitability level with its planned 30-centavo-per-kilowatthour rate increase, the petition for which has been pending with the Energy Regulatory Board (now Commission) since April 2000.

Energy Regulatory Commission Chair Fe Barin, meanwhile, said in a separate interview that the process of deciding on Meralco's rate hike petition could take longer than what was convenient to the firm.

The ERC chief said the Commission had its hand full with various pressing matters, including the Meralco rate hike petition.

Property reassessment bloats sugar mill's tax dues to ₱50M

By Romy G. Amarado
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—United Robina Sugar Milling Corp. (Ursumco) in Manjuyod, Negros Oriental faces the prospect of having some of its assets confiscated by the provincial government because of its unpaid real estate taxes since 1999 now worth more than P50 million.

Gov. George Arnaiz said that if Ursumco would continue to refuse to pay its debt, the government might be forced to attach some of its properties and sell them through a public auction.

He, however, did not give Ursumco a new deadline to settle its obligation.

The amount represents the company's principal tax due and the 2-percent monthly penalty.

Provincial treasurer Flory Sonjaco said the company was given until the end of 2001 to pay its obligations but the province decided to give it more time since the sugar industry has been in a slump.

The sugar firm incurred the debt following the general revision of the provincial government's real property assessment in 1998, which took effect in 1999. Under the revised assessment of Ursumco's real properties, its real estate tax ballooned from P5.3 million to P21.8 million yearly.

But Sonjaco said the company's taxes also soared because of the discovery of 21 other taxable properties that the company did not declare earlier.

Ursumco has been questioning the assessment since June 1999. Roberto L. Go, Ursumco president, wrote on June 7, 1999 to the province's Board of Assessment Appeals saying that the tax assessment did not comply with the requirement of the Local Government Code that clearly stated that taxes should not be unjust, excessive, oppressive, and confiscatory.

Go further noted that while Ursumco's property was valued at P203.51 per square meter, its adjacent lots were only valued at P29.34 per square meter. This, he said, violated the provision of the Code that stated that real property should be appraised at its current and fair market value. The province however denied the appeal, saying that Ursumco's lot was classified as industrial while its adjacent lots were either residential or agricultural.

AsPac airlines launch media blitz

KUALA LUMPUR- Asia-Pacific airlines yesterday launched a million-dollar regional media blitz to rejuvenate confidence in travel and bolster a recovery seen as already under way.

The Association of Asia-Pacific Airlines (AAPA), which groups 18 key airlines, hopes the television and print advertising campaign will woo leisure travelers put off by the global terrorism scare.

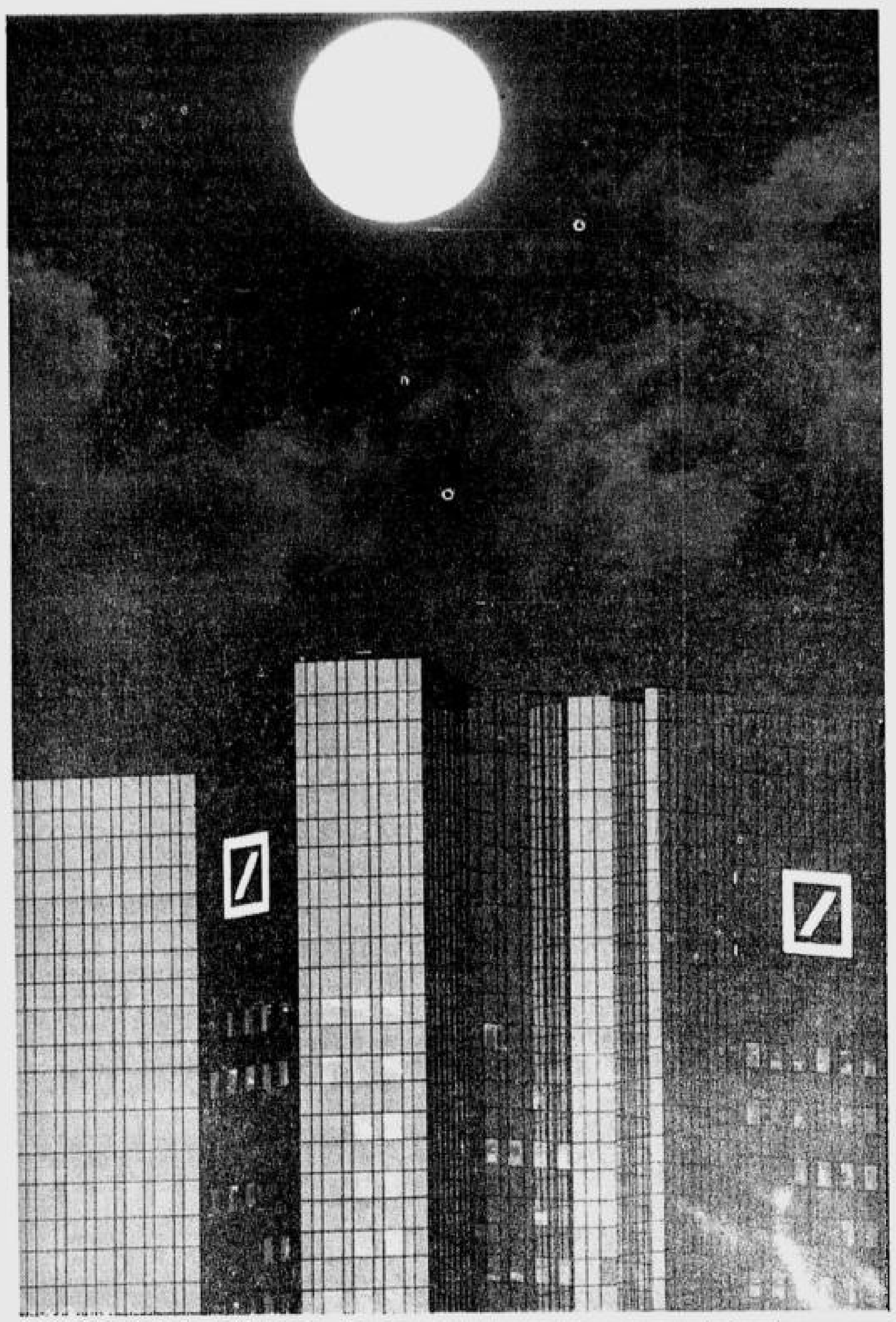
The media blitz, themed "Travel moves people," will start running today in six languages in Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, Brunei, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines.

While travel had picked up since the Sept. 11 terror attacks in the United States, AAPA director general Richard Stirland said the airline industry still faced a "serious, if not catastrophic, situation."

According to the latest AAPA statistics, total passenger traffic contracted 16.9 percent in November, the same as in October.

Intra Asia-Pacific traffic declined 14 percen while passenger numbers fell 40 percent between the region and North America and 17 percent between Asia and Europe.

"Don't forget that in this region, traffic growth was running at 7 to 8 percent per annum." *AFP*



THE FULL moon is seen over the Frankfurt skyline with the characteristic twin towers, the headquarters of Germany's Deutsche Bank AG. Deutsche Bank, the world's third largest business bank, will present its annual figures on Thursday. REUTERS

US economy seen taking $639-B hit from air attacks

NEW YORK—The US economy will take a staggering $639-billion hit through 2003 and lose as many as 2 million jobs as a direct result of the Sept. 11 air attacks on downtown Manhattan's World Trade Center, according to a report, prepared for the New York State Senate and released on Monday.

The report, one of the first to look at the national economic impact of New York City's disaster, was prepared by the New York State Senate's economic consultants, DRI-WEFA, of Lexington, Massachusetts.

Much of the report focused heavily on the impact on New York State. The state Senate will use the study to strengthen the state's case for more federal aid. Gov. George Pataki has asked Washington for $54 billion; President George W. Bush so far has stood by his pledge to give the state $20 billion.

The national economy stands to lose a total of $639 billion, based on reductions in the gross domestic product, which DRI-WEFA forecast at $40.8 billion for the fourth quarter of 2001, $316 billion for 2002 and $280 billion for 2003.

One of the main reasons why the attacks, which were expected to cost New York State more than $4.6 billion in lost tourism spending through 2003, struck the national economy so hard was because activity already had weakened substantially before two jets slammed into the World Trade Center on Sept. 11.

"Across the United States, economic activity ground to a halt in the week of the attack, and as the dust settled, it was clear that consumers were in no mood for immediate spending," the report said.

New York State lost an estimated 100,000 jobs—with New York City accounting for 70,000 of those positions—though the report said it should regain 20,000 this year. About one-third of the positions New York City lost were in financial services—its vital hometown industry, which also was the state's main economic engine.

"This report also makes clear that New York—Ground Zero in this diabolical attack—has suffered disproportionately and that the nation's recovery is inextricably tied to own," State Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno, a Brunswick Republican, said in a statement.

The amount of income New Yorkers get from capital gains fell 20 percent in 2001, the report said, adding that bonuses paid to security industry professionals fell 42 percent. During 2002, bonuses were expected to rise 3 percent, but capital gains should stay flat.

About 32,000 World Trade Center jobs that were forced to relocate might never return to New York City, at least not before 2004, the report said.

New York State's Senate, which along with the Assembly has just started analyzing the $88.6 billion budget Pataki presented, is dominated by upstate Republicans who typically are less inclined to aid New York City than the Democrat-led Assembly.

The report, commissioned by the Senate, found that the tourism sector, which had cooled before Sept. 11, lost 46,500 jobs in tourism—and that 19,700 jobs were upstate. *Reuters*

Wall Street looking at Corporate America's darkest earnings season

NEW YORK—Wall Street is now looking at Corporate America's darkest earnings season since the early 1990s—in the rearview mirror, and while the road ahead is not clear daylight, the view is improving, analysts say.

Pundits, however, warn that the recovery in 2002 likely will be tempered and that Wall Street's rosy expectations for future quarters are out of whack with economic reality.

Since hitting three-year lows in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States, Wall Street has rallied. Investors have bet the economy and corporate profits will turn the corner.

But many stoc· especially high-tech issues, are now priced for perfection, and a sustained rally would need to be confirmed by a recovery in underlying companies' profits.

"All data indicates that the turn in earnings is upon us," said equity strategist Joseph Kalinowski of market research firm Thomson Financial/First Call.

According to First Call, current expectations for the October-December period call for a year-on-year decline of 21.6 percent. This would make it the worst performing quarter since the second quarter of 1991, when profits plunged 24.2 percent.

As of Friday, 265 companies in the Standard & Poor's 500 index had handed in fourth-quarter scorecards and collectively, their earnings were down 19.4 percent from a year ago, according to First Call.

"We have crossed the halfway point of the fourth-quarter earnings season and the backward looking numbers still look good," said J.P. Morgan market strategist Douglas Cliggott.

The latest upbeat news came from firms such as office equipment maker Xerox Corp., which posted a surprise profit, before unusual items, and said it was confident of a profit for 2002. Shares rose 8 percent or 84 cents to $10.74.

Many top firms have already reported. But S&P 500 companies to issue results this week include oil titan ChevronTexaco and Web and media company AOL Time Warner Inc. *Reuters*

Global Crossing files for Ch. 11 protection

NEW YORK—Bermuda-based telecom group Global Crossing Ltd. has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in the United States along with and coordinated proceedings in Bermuda.

The ailing group said it signed a letter of intent with Hutchison Whampoa Ltd. of Hong Kong and Singapore Technologies Telemedia Pte. for a $750-million cash investment for a joint majority stake in the firm, pending approval by the courts as part of a restructuring

In a statement, the company said the filing was part of a restructuring process aimed at improving Global Crossing's balance sheet position.

Chief executive John Legere said, "Ours is a balance sheet issue, not an operational one, and today's actions are intended to directly address this issue."

"Even with the financial uncertainty we've recently experienced, customers have continued to choose our network over many others," he added.

Legere insisted that company's operations would be unaffected by the filing and that employees would continue to receive their wages.

Under the terms of the proposed investment, which was conditional on, among other things, the confirmation of a plan of reorganization by the courts before the end of August, creditors would share in a combination of cash, new debt and new equity in the restructured company.

Global Crossing, known for building a worldwide fiber optic network, accumulated some $8 billion in debts.

The New York Stock Exchange said it suspended Global Crossing shares from trading with immediate effect following the company's filing.

In a statement, the exchange said the action was also due to Global Crossing's announcement that it signed a letter of intent with Hutchison Whampoa and Singapore Technologies Telemedia for a joint majority stake in the company. ***AFP***

Toshiba suffers huge Q3 loss, cuts forecast

TOKYO—Japanese hi-tech giant Toshiba Corp. said Tuesday it lost $638 million in the third quarter to December and further slashed a full year forecast due to a prolonged slump in global demand.

Toshiba suffered a net loss of 84.9 billion yen ($638 million) over the three months against a net profit of 11.1 billion yen a year earlier, while it posted a pre-tax loss of 143.6 billion yen from a profit of 13.3 billion yen.

Sales faltered 12.9 percent to 1.21 trillion yen, as declining prices for electronic devices and information technology ate into profit margins along with costs from a drastic restructuring plan, Toshiba said.

The firm warned it would sink further into the red than previously forecast, slashing full year predictions for the second time with net losses now seen at 260 billion yen against a loss of 200 billion yen seen in October.

Its pre-tax loss would swell to 380 billion yen from 300 billion yen on sales of 5.36 trillion yen, down from 5.46 trillion yen previously predicted.

"Digital media and information and communication systems sectors will continue to operate in a severe business environment which is expected to produce lower sales and operating income than forecast in October 2001," Toshiba said in a statement.

"The figures also reflect additional restructuring methods" from the cost-cutting plan, it said. ***AFP***

Analysts say Singapore banks are overstaffed

SINGAPORE—Singapore banks have too many workers and must either expand their services or cut more jobs, said a survey released Tuesday.

"This sector will have to expand in absolute terms or more people will lose jobs as banks seek to maintain their profitability," said the report by The Asian Banker, a Singapore-based research and consulting company.

The research group calculated that Singapore proportionately employed more than twice the number of financial service personnel as the United States.

Several large bank mergers last year contributed to the excess staffing problem despite some layoffs.

Acquisitions gave the Development Bank of Singapore and the United Overseas Bank large distribution channels and greater market share but those banks had yet to put their new size to work by expanding services such as credit cards, unit trusts and insurance funds, analysts said.

"Large distribution channels are only useful if you have a product," said Steven Theobald, a former Asia-Pacific managing director with Merrill Lynch. Theobald, now with Rasa Global Capital Management, was a guest speaker at Tuesday's briefing where the survey results were released. ***AP***

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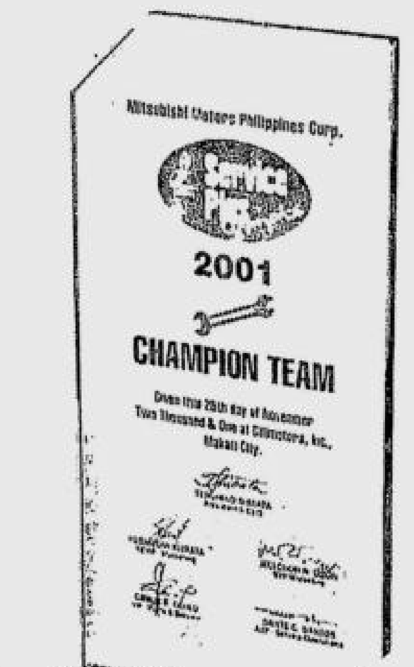
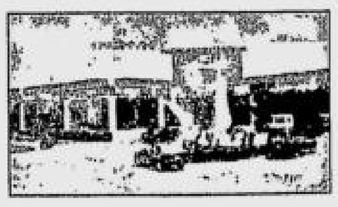


Service Plus Olympics

***The Mitsubishi Service Plus Olympics 2001
was held last November 24-25, 2001***



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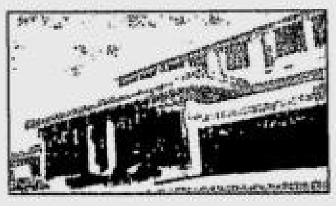

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Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
Housing and Urban Development Coordination Council

HUDCC RESOLUTION NO. 001
Series of 2001

APPROVING THE ADOPTION OF THE IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS OF RULE 8 (LOCAL HOUSING PROGRAM) OF REPUBLIC ACT 7835

WHEREAS, it is the declared policy of the Philippine Government to provide the people with adequate and decent housing facilities through affordable financing package and to encourage various stakeholders to participate in the government housing program;

WHEREAS, Her Excellency, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has expressed her support for housing projects initiated by national government agencies, especially those benefiting low-salaried government personnel, through the assistance of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) and the other shelter agencies under its supervision;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 4e of Republic Act No. 7835, the National Housing Authority is mandated to implement the Local Housing Program in selected urban and urbanizable areas in all Congressional Districts.

WHEREAS, in order to ensure the accelerated and effective implementation of the program, there is a need to revise the Implementing Rules and Regulations on Local Housing Program to make it more responsive to the constituents of the Congressional Districts.

WHEREFORE be it RESOLVED, as it is hereby RESOLVED that the adoption of the amended Implementing Rules and Regulations of Rule 8 (Local Housing Program) of RA 7835, be APPROVED, as the same is hereby APPROVED.

APPROVED this 20th day of November 2001, Makati City.

SEC. MICHAEL T. DEFENSOR
Chairman, HUDCC

GONZALO BENJAMIN A. BONGOLAN *President, HIGC*	**EDGARDO D. PAMINTUAN** *General Manager, NHA*
ROMULO O. FABUL *CEO/Commissioner, HLURB*	**ANGELICO T. SALUD** *President, NHMFC*
MANUEL C. CRISOSTOMO *President & CEO, HDMF*	**EMILIA T. BONCODIN** *Secretary, DBM*
REMEDIOS I. MACALINCAG *President, DBP*	**BENJAMIN S. ABALOS** *Chairman, MMDA*
JOSE ISIDRO N. CAMACHO *Secretary, DOF*	**WINSTON F. GARCIA** *President & GM, GSIS*
SIMEON A. DATUMANONG *Secretary, DPWH*	**CORAZON S. DE LA PAZ** *President & CEO, SSS*
DANTE B. CANLAS *Director General, NEDA*	**VICTORIA P. GARCHITORENA** *Head, PMS*
MANUEL J. COLAYCO *Representative, Private Sector*	**CONRADO P. YUVIENCO** *Representative, Private Sector*

AMENDED IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7835 THE COMPREHENSIVE AND INTEGRATED SHELTER FINANCING ACT OF 1994

RULE VIII
LOCAL HOUSING PROGRAM

Section 8.1 Program Scope

8.1.a The Local Housing Program involves the implementation of cost-recoverable socialized housing projects in urban and urbanizable areas in all congressional districts.

8.1.b The Program may be implemented under various housing options, approaches and programs to include Slum Upgrading, Sites and Services Development, Completed/Core Housing, Medium Rise Housing to include those which address land tenure issues of urban poor families, assistance for survey works provision/installation/repair of facilities and utilities and other pertinent housing approaches and programs.

8.1.c The funds under the Local Housing Program shall be utilized to finance acquisition of land, land development, housing construction, survey works, and/or installation/construction of project facilities and utilities and other related project components. Projects shall have a feasible project cost recovery mechanism consistent with the intent and cost recovery policy of the Program and with existing policies rules and regulation of NHA.

8.1.d Target Program beneficiaries include those qualified for Socialized Housing assistance under RA 7279 or the Urban Development and Housing Act.

Section 8.2 Program Delivery Scheme

8.2.a Projects under the Local Housing Program may be undertaken by the NHA, on its own, or through joint undertakings/ joint venture arrangements with Local Government Units (LGUs), other government agencies, and private sector proponents including landowners, developers, Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs), cooperatives and community associations (CAs) or people's organizations (PO's).

8.2.b Partners in joint projects may contribute land or funds for land acquisition, land development and housing construction as their contribution or equity into the project.

8.2.c While Local Housing Funds shall be recovered, other partners' contribution may or may not be recovered from the beneficiaries depending on the intention or specifications of the particular fund source.

Section 8.3 Allocation of Program Funds

8.3.a Program funds released by the National Government shall be equitably allocated among all congressional districts.

8.3.b The requirements of additional congressional districts created after issuance of these Implementing Rules and Regulations shall be funded out of the funds recovered from initial project investments under the Program.

Section 8.4 Guidelines for Project Development

8.4.a Land contributed as equity must be suitable for housing development and its title free from any liens and encumbrances.

8.4.b All projects shall be covered by a Feasibility Study indicating the cost recovery scheme.

8.4.c Housing units shall be disposed through outright sale/cash or installment sale.

8.4.d The preferred cost recovery scheme is through mortgage takeout/buyers' financing where the beneficiaries are eligible for buyers' financing.

8.4.e Project partners, depending on their roles and responsibilities in the project, shall create counterpart teams for purposes of implementing project component(s) under their responsibility.

8.4.f All partners shall secure authorization from their respective Boards on their specific participation in the project including the resources being committed as contribution/equity into the project.

Section 8.5 Roles and Responsibilities

8.5.a Project partners/proponents under the Local Housing Program may assume any or a combination of the following roles and responsibilities:

8.5.a.1 Provide land suitable for the socialized housing project

8.5.a.2 Mobilize other resources and contribute additional funding for the proposed project

8.5.a.3 Prepare subdivision development plans as well as detailed engineering drawings, technical specifications and cost estimates.

8.5.a.4 Undertake overall project operations and management to include securing of all necessary permits and clearances, implementation/supervision of all development works, beneficiary selection, unit disposition and cost recovery, and project maintenance;

8.5.a.5 Other roles and responsibilities as agreed by project partners or as approved by NHA.

8.5.b In addition, the NHA shall assume the following responsibilities:

8.5.b.1 Provide technical assistance to partners, where necessary, in project planning, implementation, beneficiary selection, estate management and all other areas of housing development;

8.5.b.2 Conduct periodic inspection to monitor project implementation and fund utilization.

Section 8.6 Fund Management and Control

8.6.a The NHA shall be responsible for the management, disbursement and control of funds for the Local Housing Program, the basic mechanics of which shall be governed by Rule XII hereof.

8.6.b Actual investments recovered and income realized from the utilization of the Fund shall be rolled over to finance new projects under the Local Housing Program.

8.6.c Net earnings from projects implemented under joint venture arrangements shall be prorated among the participating entities based on the contribution of each as prescribed in the Memorandum of Agreement executed by the parties involved.

(PDI - Jan. 30, 2002)

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
National Irrigation Administration
Malitubog-Maridagao Irrigation Project Stage I
Midsayap, Cotabato
Telefax No. (06422) 98453

January 29, 2002

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID
(BID NO. MMIPL-C-22)

The National Irrigation Administration hereby invites interested contractors to apply for pre-qualification and to participate in the sealed bidding of the Malitubog-Maridagao Irrigation Project for the construction of the following canals at Upper Malitubog Service Area located in Pikit, Cotabato under the Local Minor Contract scheme:

Package No.	Name of Canal	Estimated Cost
I.	RMC-1 Sta. 2+660.33-3+700.33	P19,674,250.21
II.	RMC-1 Sta. 3+700.33-3+953.66 & Lateral A Station 0+000-3+180	P19,287,234.71
III.	Lateral A Sta. 3+180-7+277.61 & Lateral A-1 Station 0+000-2+980	P19,749,761.87
IV.	RMC-1 Sta. 3+953.66-5+537.66 & Lateral B Station 0+000-0+600	P19,761,277.79
V.	RMC-1 Sta. 5+537.66-7+837.66 & Lateral C Station 0+000-2+161.30	P19,527,892.94
VI.	RMC-1 Sta. 7+837.66-9+157.66 & Lateral D Station 0+000-1+405	P19,715,051.78
VII.	RMC-1 Sta. 9+157.66-9+717.66	P19,192,854.65
VIII.	RMC-1 Sta. 9+717.66-10+537.66	P19,677,150.49
IX.	RMC-1 Sta. 10+537.66-10+937.66	P19,726,751.86
X.	RMC-1 Sta. 10+937.66-11+917.66	P19,860,488.87

The application for pre-qualification is open to accredited and duly registered contractors with at least Medium "B" category in Irrigation and Flood Control classification. Pre-qualification forms are available at NIA MMIP Office, Midsayap, Cotabato upon payment of non-refundable amount of Two Hundred Pesos (P200.00) starting **February 4, 2002.**

Deadline for submission of accomplished pre-qualification forms shall be at 5:00 p.m. on **February 15, 2002** at NIA MMIP Office. Bid documents shall be available to pre-qualified bidders upon payment of One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P1,500.00) per copy from **February 25, 2002 to March 1, 2002** at the PBAC Technical Secretariat of same office.

Pre-bidding Conference regarding this contract will be held on **March 12, 2002** at 10:30 a.m. at the Conference Room of Malitubog-Maridagao Irrigation Project, Midsayap, Cotabato. Submission and opening of bids will be held on **March 19, 2002** at 10:30 a.m. at the same address.

The NIA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, or any part thereof, waive any defect or informality contained therein and to accept the bid most advantageous to the Agency.

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines was able to secure a loan, Loan No. PH-P112, from Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) formerly Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) of Japan to finance the construction of Malitubog-Maridagao Irrigation Project.

(Sgd.) NOLDIN S. OYOD
OIC/Project Manager

(PDI - January 30, Feb. 4 & 8, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
City of Davao
PREQUALIFICATION, BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Tel. No. 225-0715

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The City Government of Davao, thru the City Prequalification Bids and Awards Committee, invites contractors, classified as "Medium A" and registered with the Inter-agency Committee on Registration and Classification of Contractors to apply for prequalification and listed in the PBAC Roster of prequalified contractors to submit bids for the projects funded under the Department of Agrarian Reform - Asian Development Bank and the City Government of Davao:

Project Title	Appropriation
■ Improvement of Farm-To-Market Road of Daliaon Plantation from Barangay Hall to Purok 5, Toril District	P 11,606,122.71
■ Improvement of Farm-To-Market Road of Daliaon Plantation, Purok 5 to Purok 6A, Toril District	7,056,252.76
■ Improvement of ARC Road from Purok 3 to 5, Tamayong, Calinan District	11,012,272.29
■ Improvement of ARC Road from Purok 5 to 6, Tamayong, Calinan District	7,150,636.14

Prequalification documents, Pro-forma Letter of Intent, Plans and bid forms are available for sale to prospective bidders at the PBAC Technical Committee, Office of the City Planning and Development Coordinator, Annex A-1, City Hall, Davao City, not later than 5:00 PM on **February 4, 2002** to those contractors prequalified by the PBAC.

Deadline for submission of duly accomplished prequalification statements shall be on **February 8, 2002** up to 5:00 PM.

Dates of submission and opening of bids are as follows:

Pre-Bid Conference - **February 22, 2002**, 10:00 AM
Submission of Bids (Deadline) - **February 26, 2002**, 5:00 PM
Opening of Bids - **February 27, 2002**, 10:00 AM

Prequalified contractors interested to bid shall drop their 1st and 2nd envelopes in the bid box at the PBAC Technical Working Committee, Office of the City Planning and Development Coordinator, City Hall, Davao City, on the date and time stated above. Bid securities in an amount not less than two and half percent (2½%) of their total bid price proposals shall be placed in the 1st bid envelope. The sealed bid envelopes shall be addressed to the PBAC Chairman, with the name of the project to be bidded and the name of the bidder in capital letters, and they shall be marked "Do not open before (date and time of bid opening)."

Pre-Bid Conference and opening of bids shall be held at the Conference Room, Office of the City Mayor, City Hall, Davao City, on the date and time stated above.

The PBAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any formality/defect contained therein, and to award to the bidder whose bid, as evaluated by the PBAC, is the most advantageous to the city government.

Approved:

(Sgd.) **LEO G. DELOS SANTOS**
City Administrator
Authorized Representative of the Mayor

(PDI – Jan. 23, 30 & Feb. 6, 2002)

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FIBER INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

LIST OF FIDA VACANT POSITIONS

Central Office

LEGAL OFFICER IV - Item No. FIDAB-LEGO4-1-1998; P19,251/mo., SG - 22; Education: Bachelor of Laws; Experience: 1 year of relevant experience; Training: 4 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: RA 1080

MGT. & AUDIT ANALYST III - Item No. FIDAB-MAA3-1-1998; P15,841/mo., SG - 18; Education: Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; Experience: 2 years of relevant experience; Training: 8 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: CS Pro/2nd Level Elig.

BUDGET OFFICER III - Item No. FIDAB-BUDO3-1-1998, P15,841/mo., SG - 18; Education: Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; Experience: 2 years of relevant experience; Training: 8 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: CS Pro/2nd Level Elig.

ADM. OFFICER IV - Item No. FIDAB-ADO4-1-1998, P19,251/mo., SG - 22; Education: Bachelor's degree; Experience: 3 years of relevant experience; Training: 16 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: CS Pro/2nd Level Elig.

ADM. OFFICER III - Item No. FIDAB-ADO3-1-1998, P15,841/mo., SG - 18; Education: Bachelor's degree; Experience: 2 years of relevant experience; Training: 8 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: CS Pro/2nd Level Elig.

SUPPLY OFFICER I - Item No. FIDAB-SUO1-1-1998, P9,939/mo., SG - 10; Education: Bachelor's degree; Experience: None required; Training: None required; Eligibility: CS Pro/2nd Level Elig.

CHIEF FIBER DEVELOPMENT OFFICER - Item Nos. - FIDAB-CFDO-1 & 4-1998, P20,823/mo., SG - 24; Education: Masteral degree; Experience: 4 years in position/s involving management & supervision; Training: 24 hours of training in management & supervision; Eligibility: CS Pro/2nd Level Eligibility

SENIOR FIBER DEVELOPMENT OFFICER - Item Nos. FIDAB-SFDO-27 & 32-1998, P15,841/mo., SG - 18; Education: Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; Experience: 2 years of relevant experience; Training: 8 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: CS Pro/2nd Level Elig.

FIBER TECHNICIAN - Item No. FIDAB-FIT-12 & 19-1998, P7,606/mo., SG - 6; Education: Completion of 2 years studies in college; Experience: None required; Training: None required; Eligibility: None required (MC11, s. 96-Cat. III)

SUPERVISING FIBER DEVELOPMENT OFFICER - Item No. FIDAB-SVFDO-7-1998, P19,251/mo., SG - 22; Education: Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; Experience: 3 years of relevant experience; Training: 16 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: CS Pro/2nd Level Elig.

PLANNING OFFICER II - Item No. FIDAB-PL02-4-1998, P13,300/mo., SG-15; Education: Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; Experience: 1 year of relevant experience; Training: 4 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: CS Pro/2nd Level Elig.

Police Savings & Loan Association., Inc.

NOTICE OF MEETING

All members of the Police Savings & Loan Association, Inc. (POSLAI), are hereby notified that a special general membership meeting will be held on February 9, 2002 at 2:00 p.m. at the Phil. Columbian Association, Plaza Dilao, Paco, Manila.

AGENDA

1. Registration
2. Invocation
3. National Anthem
4. Call to Order
5. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting
6. President's Report
7. Other Matters
8. Adjournment

All members are enjoined to attend. By authority of the Board of Trustees.

(Sgd.) Atty. MANUEL M. CALANOG, JR.
Corporate Secretary

(PDI--Jan. 30, 2002)

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THERE HAS BEEN A CHANGE OF STOCK OWNERSHIP AND A NEW APPOINTMENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF NET SHIP MANAGEMENT INC. (FORMERLY ONBOARD MARINE EXPONENTS CORP.) EFFECTIVE JANUARY 4, 2002. THE NEW STOCKHOLDERS/ DIRECTORS ARE NORBERTO E. TAPIA, ROSALIA T. CABALLERO, RAMON Y. TAPIA, LUIS Y. TAPIA AND KENNETH THOREN. THIS NOTICE IS MADE PURSUANT TO POEA RULES.

(PDI--Jan. 30, 2002)

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INQUIRER
TRiViA
By BONG BARRAMEDA

Mass

Q. Why is the service of the Eucharist in the Roman Catholic Church and some other churches called 'Mass'?

A. In the Roman Catholic Church, since earliest times, the priest has ended the *mass* with the Latin phrase: "Ite, *missa* est," which means "Go, you are dismissed." In the end, the word *missa* passed through several phases and by the time of Middle English it had become recognizbale as *masse*, which is close to our *mass*. The Latin *missa* is from the Latin *mitto*, 'to send.' From the same source we have the word *missionary*, a member of a religious order who is 'sent' on a mission.

For the Record. The smallest church in the world is the chapel of Santa Isabel de Hungria at Benalmadena, Malaga, Spain. Built in memory of the Italian explorer Christopher Columbus, the chapel is irregular in shape and has a total floor area of only 21-1/8 square feet (1.92 square meters).

First of All. The first detective novel as Edgar Allan Poe's "The Murders in the Rue Morgue," published in *Graham's Magazine*, Philadelphia in April 1841. The story is set in Parish and Poe's detective was an impoverished and eccentric chavalier, Auguste Dupin. The hero was necessarily French, as France was the only country that had developed either private or police detection as a distinct professional by that date.

WORD WATCH

Misteryoso : from the Spanish *misterioso*, which, in turn, derives from the Greek *mysterion*, 'to close the eyes or mouth.'

PDI – January 30, 2002

Japan jobless rate at record high, spending falls in Dec.

TOKYO—Japan's unemployment rate climbed to a record high for the fourth straight month in December and household spending sagged, providing little hope that the world's second largest economy would pull out of recession any time soon.

Industrial output gained for the first time in four months, but government officials were quick to play down any notion that this might be the start of a convincing recovery.

Japan's jobless rate climbed to 5.6 percent in December, up from 5.5 percent in November, according to the Ministry of Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications.

It was the highest rate since unemployment records began in their current form in 1953.

Separate data showed that average spending by households with wage-earners fell sharply, down a real 4.4 percent in December from a year earlier, the first decline in three months.

The politically sensitive unemployment rate rose as recession and tough competition forced companies to shed more workers.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi has come under pressure from within his party to increase government spending to boost the economy, but he has stuck to his line that structural reform is needed for long-term growth, even if that brings short-term pain.

Finance Minister Masajuro Shiokawa said the jobless rate would probably stay at high levels.

"This will probably continue," he told a news conference. "Businesses have just started to restructure."

To cope with the deteriorating economy, the government has compiled a 2.64-trillion-yen ($19.58-billion) extra budget that is expected to pass the Lower House later on Tuesday.

The passage of the budget bill was supposed to have taken place on Monday but was delayed after opposition lawmakers walked out in protest at a feud between Foreign Minister Makiko Tanaka and ministry officials.

It is the second supplementary spending package for the current fiscal year ending in March.

Rising unemployment has cast a shadow over hopes of a pick-up in personal consumption. Consumption accounts for about 60 percent of Japan's gross domestic product.

GDP is expected to contract by about one percent in the current fiscal year ending in March, and the government is officially forecasting zero growth the following year.

"We cannot be complacent about the economy," said Trade Minister Takeo Hiranuma. "There is a serious risk of an economic downturn if the US economic recovery undercuts expectations."

Separate data released by the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare showed the seasonally adjusted jobs-to-applicants ratio was 0.51 in December, meaning there were just 51 openings for every 100 job seekers. This was down from 0.53 in November.

Data released on Monday showed Japanese consumers reduced their retail spending for a ninth consecutive month in December.

The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry said industrial output rose 2.1 percent in December from a month earlier on a seasonally adjusted basis.

That was better than a median forecast of a 1.5-percent gain in a Reuters survey of 15 economists conducted last week.

Despite the rise, METI kept its assessment of industrial output unchanged, saying it remained on a declining trend. ***Reuters***

HK firms expect zero business growth

HONG KONG—Hong Kong's business outlook remains grim with over half of the territory's small and medium-sized enterprises expecting zero growth this year, a survey by the Hong Kong Productivity Council shows.

The survey, released late on Monday, shows that 50 percent of local SMEs do not anticipate any increase in business volume in 2002 while 24 percent forecast negative growth.

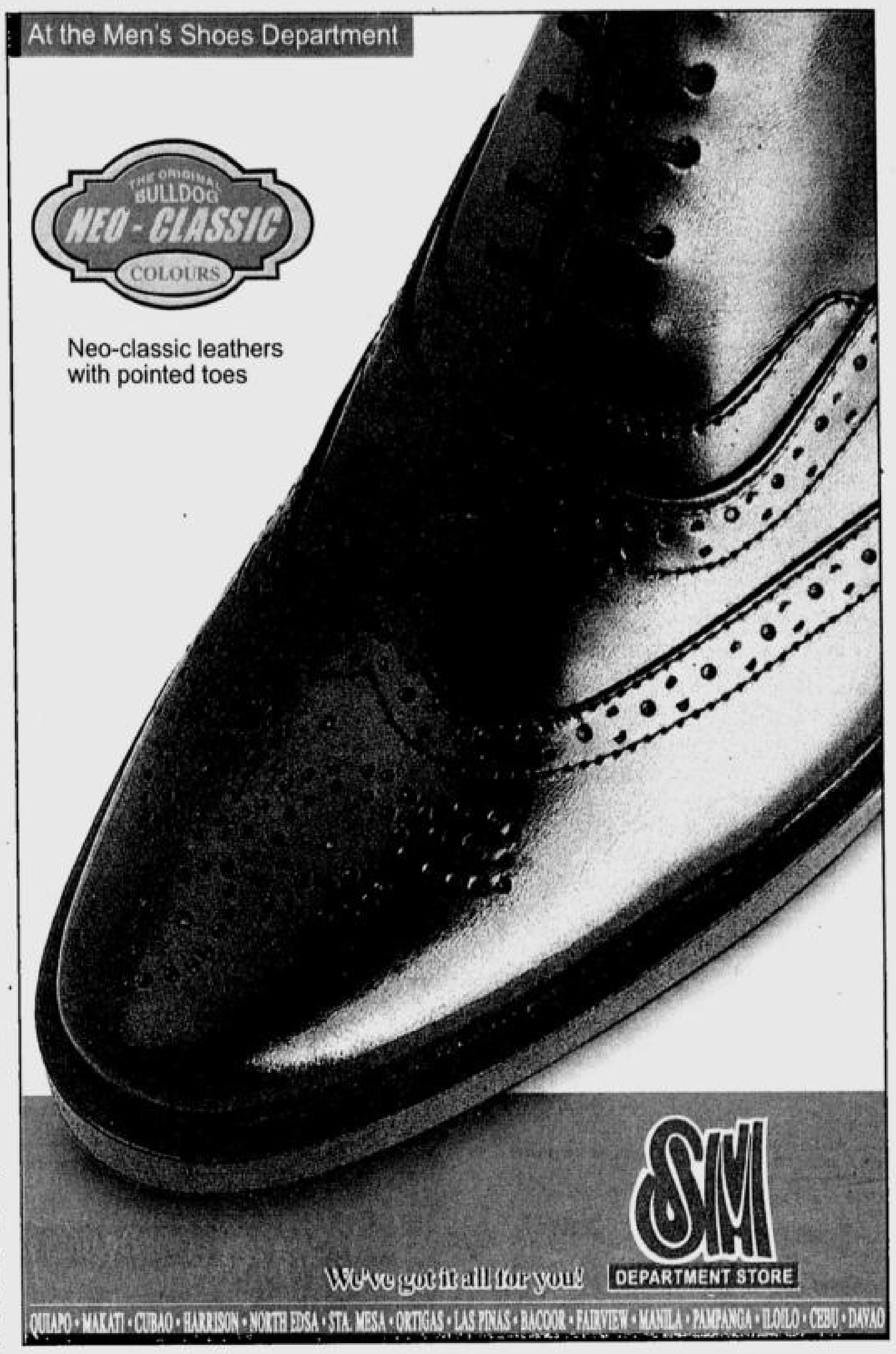
A total of 685 companies took part in the study of which 387 were from the service sector and nearly 300 from the manufacturing sector.

Over 98 percent of Hong Kong companies are SMEs.

Some 80 percent of companies surveyed said that they planned to freeze salaries this year, while only one percent of respondents said staff could expect a salary increase of 0.2 percent.

Companies are, however, poised to tap China's rapidly growing economy.

Half of the companies surveyed said they already have business activities in the mainland, with 30 percent of them looking for further expansion. Another 15 percent said they would try and kickstart business in China. ***Reuters***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HI SWEETIE! HOWS MY BABY FEELIN 2DAY? IM SITTIN HERE TOTALLY BORED & THNKIN BOUT WHEN I CAN LEAVE WORK
2NITE IS GONNA ROCK AND IVE FOUND DE PERFECT PLACE 4 US 2 GO EAT AFTERWARDS! GUESS WHAT? THEIR SPECIALTY
MY FRIENDS TELL ME THAT DE STEAMED MUSSELS R AWESOME N SO IS DE TIGER PRAWNS IN GARLIC BUTTER, N ALSO DE
IM GETTIN HUNGRY SITTIN HERE HOPE URE ENJOYING THIS. I LOVE U! EVRYTHIN AROUND ME KEEPS REMINDIN ME OF U...
MY BOSS HAS BEEN LOOKIN AT ME STARE AT MY PHONE 4 A LONGLONG TIME. C U 2NITE! ILUVUILUVUILUVUILUVU. CIAO!

ABBREVIATE YOUR WORDS.
NOT YOUR EMOTIONS.

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A. Technical Accountabilities

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- Monitors/supervise, review, prepares and reconcile financial and accounting reports;
- Provides analysis/recommendations to the PC on the maintenance of accounts, budget controls, and financial status reports of the Programme and project components, budget, procedures, cost of expenditures and potential funding problems; and to assist/provide the same technical advise on all project components
- Establish and maintain the payroll system; facilitate the conduct of financial and management audit
- Support the preparation of the work and financial programming in collaboration with the Administrative and Procurement Officer (APO), Management Information System Officer (MIS) and Monitoring and Evaluation Officer (M&E);

B. Supervision

- Supervise, review and check, in accordance w/ established rules/procedures, of the Finance Unit and other Finance Staff of Area Coordination Teams (ACT) and other project components;
- Coach all financial staff in carrying respective tasks and work plans;
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- Undertakes financial monitoring visits to ACTs, provide accounting/financial training/support, establish/review systems/ procedures and prepares reports and recommendations; and
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Qualifications: Certified Public Accountant with at least 5 years experience involving financial management and supervision in a foreign-funded Project Management Office set-up; able to converse in most of the local dialects in Southern Philippines. A thorough understanding of, and actual exposure to, the socio-cultural dynamics and political situations in Southern Philippines, an advantage.

All application letters and comprehensive resume should reach our office on or before Friday, 8 February 2002. Address applications to the Development Support Services Center, United Nations Development Programme, 7th Floor, NEDA sa Makati Building, 106 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City (via courier) or P.O. Box 7285 Domestic Airport Post Office Lock Box, 1300 Domestic Road, Pasay City (via airmail), tel. nos. (632) 892-4528/892-0611 to 25, fax nos. (632) 8160461/8939598, e-mail address: be_admin.ph@undp.org

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the MESALA account of the late Francisco P. Jaudian Jr. has been extrajudicially partitioned among his heirs per Doc. No. 451, Page No.92, Book No. 19, Series of 2001 before Notary Public Atty. Warlito C. Buenavista of Manila PDI-Jan. 23, 30 & Feb. 6, 2002

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  Don Yap

◆

Elizabeth Rachael L. Co
  Lawrence & Katrina Tionglico
    Lanz Rafael Tionglico
  Oliver Tionglico
  Vienn Tionglico

◆

Janet & Manuel Ley
  Richard Noel Ley
  Monica Joy Ley
  Carla Kay Ley
  Richmond Regan Ley
  Mikaela Natasha Ley

◆

Fely & Johnny K. Simpson
  Jeffrey Filbert Simpson
  Jane Crystal Simpson
  Joy Faith Simpson

Her remains lie in state at Capilla de la Virgen, Sanctuario de San Antonio, McKinley Road, Makati
and will be transferred on Friday, February 1, 2002 at 8:00 in the morning to
United Evangelical Church of the Philippines,
1170 Benavidez Street, Binondo, Manila
where a Memorial Service will be held at 1:00 in the afternoon
Interment will follow thereafter at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.

ERRATUM

The name of the late **Co Lim Si Tee** was inadvertently printed as Com Lim Si Tee in their obituary ad published in this paper on January 27, 2002.

Our apologies

Sister LEOCADIA (INOCENCIA) DE LA COSTA, ICM

died in the grace of our Lord
in Queen of Peace Convent, Quezon City
on January 28, 2002
at the age of 79
in the 50th year of her religious missionary life.

The Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (ICM Sisters), her brother **Domingo**, her sisters **Sr. Mary Margarethis**, SSpS, **Thelma**, **Lydia** and **Grace**, and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

The Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated on January 31, 2002, at 9:00 AM at the Queen of Peace Chapel, after which interment will follow at the La Loma Catholic Cemetery.

IRENE CORVITE FIGUEROA

of Pacita Complex, San Pedro, Laguna
Joined her Creator on Jan. 26, 2002 at the age of 36.

Her bereaved husband **Ferdie Figueroa**; children **Justin**, **Nicole** and **Kevin**; parents **Rodolfo, Sr.** and **Zenaida**; brothers **Boots** and **Marlon**; mother-in-law **Esther**; brothers and sisters-in-law **Alfred**, **Girlie**, **Arvin** and **Luchie**; nephews, nieces, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to join them in praying for her journey to eternal life.

Her remains lie in state at the Sto. Rosario Parish Chu[illegible] Pedro, Lagu[illegible]

Intermen[illegible] [illegible]urday, Feb. 2, 2002 at at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque after the 8:30 AM Mass at Sto. Rosario Church.

In Loving Memory

ON THE FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF

Philip T. Duyongco

OF HOUSTON, TEXAS, U.S.A.

Who died in the Grace of our Lord last February 2, 2001.

Mass will be offered on February 2, 2002 at 11:00 a.m. at Christ The King Parish Church, Greenmeadows Avenue, Quezon City.

His beloved wife **Lulu** and daughters **Michelle**, **Tanya** and **Marjorie**, brothers and sisters, other relatives and many friends request the pious readers to remember *Philip* in their prayers.

PERLA DORADO ABELLA

of Panitan, Capiz, and BF Executive Village, Las Piñas City

was called home by the Father on January 27, 2002 at the age of 74.

Her deeply bereaved
Husband **Vicente (Vic) C. Abella;**
Children: **Jovi & Mercy Tolentino Abella;**
Grace & Vir Zata;
Adrian;
Rey & Hope Basiao Abella;
Joy & Joseph Yabut; and
Rico;
Grandchildren: **Jordan, Ten-Ten, Julia, Jaycee, Jaymee, Vinci, Marty, Enzo, Paopao, Patrick, Leslie Ann & Ella;**
Sister **Rose** and brother **Fred** and his wife **Cel;** and niece **Marissa;**
Brothers- and sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces and other relatives;
Brothers and sisters in the Lord belonging to the Ang Ligaya ng Panginoon Community, the Women For Christ, and the Golden Girls request the pious readers to join them in praying for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Faith Chapel, Don Bosco, Makati.

Her cremation will take place on Thursday, January 31st at the Manila Memorial Park after the 7:30 a.m. Mass at Don Bosco Faith Chapel and the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Manila Memorial Park Crematorium.

ISAGANI M. AMIGO

Pres. & Chair of ANAMI Security & Invest., Sus. Inc.
Pres. & Chair of EMARCON Tech. Sus. Inc.
Pres. & GM of IMA Cargo Express

Died at the age of 51 on January 26, 2002

His wife **Dolor,** sons **Tonton** & **Gelo** and daughter **Nenette,** his parents, brothers and sisters, relatives and friends request prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies at the family residence at Brgy. Leynes, Talisay, Batangas. Interment shall be on January 31, 2002 at Talisay Cemetery.

"Lift her, O Lord, by Your shafts of light,
and suffuse her with a joyful sense of belonging."

BASILIA CRUZ DIZON

of Sta. Rita, Pampanga

entered into God's embrace on 27 January 2002.

Her mortal remains lie in state at the San Vicente Chapel in Sta. Rita, Pampanga.

Interment will be on Saturday, 02 February 2002, at the Sta. Rita Catholic Cemetery, after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at the San Vicente Chapel.

Her children **Antonietta & Ben, Randolfo & Bella, Raoul & Thelma, Francisco & Praxedes,** and **Rowena & Bert**; and grandchildren thank all relatives and friends for their support, prayers and flowers.

IN LOVING MEMORY
ON HER FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

AGNES "GIRLIE" FLORES DOMINGO

Masses will be offered on January 31, 2002, Thursday, for the eternal repose of her soul, at the following churches:

ST. SCHOLASTICA'S COLLEGE CHAPEL	Leon Guinto, Manila	6:00 a.m.
OUR LADY OF PILAR PARISH CHURCH	Las Pinas City	6:00 a.m.
OUR LADY OF SACRED HEART CHURCH	Triala, Guimba, Nueva Ecija	6:00 a.m.
ST. JOHN PARISH CHURCH	Guimba, Nueva Ecija	6:00 a.m.
SAN ANTONIO DE PADUA PARISH CHURCH	Lincoln St., San Francisco del Monte, Q.C.	6:30 a.m.
ASSUMPTION COLLEGE CHAPEL	San Lorenzo Village, Makati City	6:30 a.m.
BAGUIO CATHEDRAL	Session Road, Baguio City	6:30 a.m.
ST. JUDE ARCHDIOCESAN SHRINE	1420 Dr. J.P Laurel St., San Miguel, Manila	7:00 a.m.
SAN AGUSTIN CHURCH	Intramuros, Manila	7:00 a.m.
ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER PARISH CHURCH	4927 Enrique St., Palanan, Makati City	7:00 a.m.
MALATE CATHOLIC CHURCH	2000 Marcelo H. del Pilar, Malate, Manila	7:00 a.m.
ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA PARISH CHURCH	Singalong, Manila	7:15 a.m.
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE	Greenhills, Metro Manila	7:15 a.m.
GREENBELT CHAPEL	Ayala Center, Makati City	7:15 a.m.
SANTO DOMINGO CHURCH	Quezon City	9:00 a.m.
ST. EDWARD'S CHURCH	Newark, California	9:00 a.m.
MAKATI MEDICAL CENTER CHAPEL	Makati City	12:00 n.n.
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO	McKinley Rd, Forbes Park, Makati City	6:00 p.m.

Message of Thanks

We, the children, grandchildren and great grandchildren of the late

NIEVES PALIS LOPEZ

who joined her Creator on January 12, 2002.

sincerely convey our heartfelt gratitude to all those who paid their last respect and grieved with us, offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and who in one way or another assisted and condoled with us and showed love and concern in our time of bereavement.

Thank you very much. God bless!

FR. VITALIANO R. GOROSPE, S.J.

was called home to the Lord on Monday, January 28, 2002.

Wake: **Tuesday & Wednesday** at Immaculate Conception Chapel, Gonzaga Hall, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, Quezon City; **Thursday** at Oratory of St. Ignatius, Loyola House of Studies, Ateneo de Manila University Campus, Loyola Heights, Quezon City; Concelebrated Mass every evening at 8:00 PM.

Funeral Mass: at 8 AM on Friday, 1st of February in the Oratory of St. Ignatius, Loyola House of Studies.

Interment: Sacred Heart Novitiate Cemetery, Novaliches Quezon City, immediately after the Funeral Mass.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF HIS SOUL.

"You will forever be in our hearts mama."

ERLINDA CERVANTES MIRAVITE

July 9, 1947

Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord on January 28, 2002 at the age of 54.

Her loving husband ZACK F. MIRAVITE, JR.; children KARLOS, KRISTINE & JOHN PALEGA, KATRINA; grandson JALEN; other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on Friday, February 1, 2002 at 1:00 p.m. at the La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City after the 10:30 a.m. Mass at Arlington Memorial Chapels.

ATTY. JESUS VILLORDON

February 14, 1916 - January 25, 2002

***Jesus**, Loving husband to **Luz** passed away on Friday, January 25, 2002 at 2:30 a.m. at their home in Iloilo.*

Body lies in state at SOMO FUNERAL HOME at Delgado Street, Iloilo City.

Interment will be on February 2, 2002, 8:00 a.m. at CHRIST THE KING MEMORIAL PARK at Ungka, Jaro, Iloilo City.

For more information, please contact SOMO FUNERAL HOME @ tel. nos. (033) 337-4009 336-4535 & 336-4536.

EPIFANIO ESTIVA ESTRELLADO

Of Davao City and San Pablo City
Dean Emeritus, College of Law, Ateneo de Davao University,
Paul Harris Fellow, Rotary Club of South Davao
was called home by our loving Father on January 28, 2002.

His sister Nenita;
Nephews and nieces: Aleni & Chito, Enrique Jr., Sining, Lucy, Nany & Agnes, Eris & Beth, Peter & Lilirose;
Pretend sisters & brother: Pilar Cosico, Helen M. Garrett, Tere V. Soriano, Jose Baries;
Cousins: Ben & Luz Estrellado, Inocentes & Tessie Perez;
request prayers for the repose of his soul.
Funeral Mass on Saturday, February 2, 2002 at 7:30 AM at the College Chapel, Ateneo de Davao University.
Interment at the Davao Memorial Park will follow.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

John 3:16

The family of the late

RENATO EDANO VICENCIO

December 31, 1962 - January 14, 2002

wishes to thank all of those who, by way of their presence, flowers, thoughts and most specially prayers, joined and supported us in our hour of bereavement and in honoring his memory.

May his soul forever rejoice with his Creator.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring... **INQUIRER OBITUARIES**

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS
and bank-to-bank payments

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS
FREE OBIT DESIGN

"The Lord is my shepherd....
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever"
Psalm 23

MANUEL TORRIJOS LLORENTE

(of Butuan City and San Juan, Metro Manila)

*He now joins his wife **Jane;***
*brothers and sisters **Jesus, Plong, Nenette, Rosie** and **Sammy** in his "FATHER'S" Mansion.*

His loving children **Baby Jane** and **Chito Feria, Manny Jr.** and **Des, Anton**; grandchildren **Gabrielle, JP, EJ, NJ & LJ**; nephews, nieces, and other relatives, continues to praise God for the lives that **Manoling** touched as he lived a life of righteousness.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Memorial Services will be held on Thursday, January 31 at 8:00 a.m. Interment follows at Manila Memorial Park, Dasmariñas, Cavite.

WE LOVINGLY REMEMBER
The Fifth Death Anniversary** of our beloved **LOLO PARE

REV. FR. GREGORIO V. TORRES

who joined his Creator on January 30, 1997

Holy Masses for his eternal peace and happiness will be offered at the following churches today, January 30, 2002:

St. Jerome the Parish Church	Ayala-Alabang, Muntinlupa	6:00 AM
St. James Parish Church	Ayala Alabang	6:00 AM
Sanctuario de Santo Cristo Parish Church	San Juan, Metro Manila	6:00 PM
Sto. Tomas Aquinas Parish Church	Sto. Tomas, Batangas - Jan. 23-30 6:30AM & 5:00 PM	5:45 AM

The family requests relatives, friends and pious readers to join them in praying for the eternal repose of his soul.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord." Matthew 10:39

'I regret not fighting harassment'

By Tita Datu Puangco

Advice

FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

INSTEAD of my regular advice column, I am sharing a feedback letter from a reader. She is a medical doctor. She recounts that she regrets not filing a legal complaint when her boss harassed her sexually. Her experience may serve to give courage to those who are currently experiencing similar situations at work. Indeed, it takes a lot of courage to do what is morally right.

I take this opportunity to thank all of you for the letters and support you give this column. I will do my best to respond as soon as I can. To be fair, I have adopted a "first letter, first serve" policy. I am grateful for your patience.

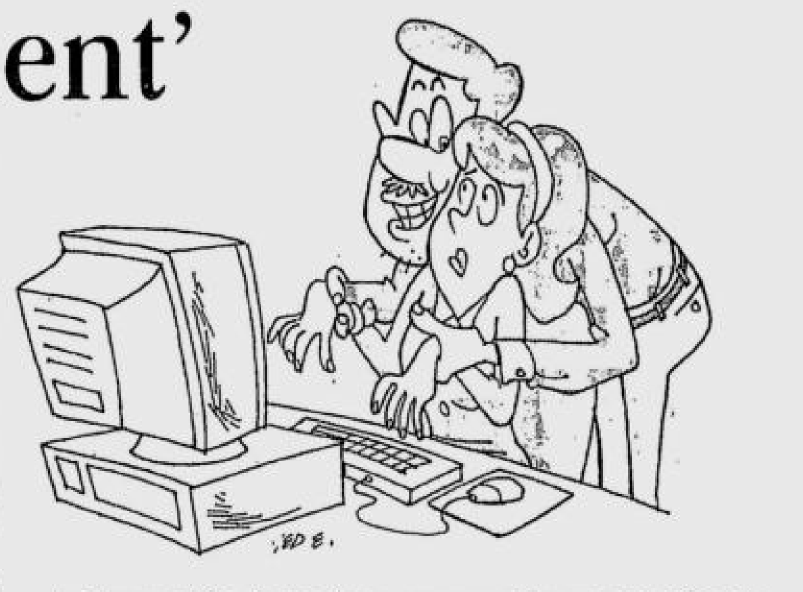
Here's the letter from our reader:

I am writing you regarding your column last January 16, 2002 on sexual harassment in the workplace. I have been a victim of sexual harassment by my boss many years ago. Though I have moved on from that unpleasant experience, I continue to regret how I handled my situation then. It is for this reason that I decided to write you when I read the experience of Lioness.

I was then a recent college graduate. I opted to work for a year prior to pursuing my medical education. Shortly after I was hired, I noticed my boss touching my legs while he was teaching me how to go about the web site of our company. While I found it uncomfortable, I did not call his attention that very moment. Instead, I confided in two of my colleagues at work. Upon their encouragement, I related the incident to our office manager. But she said that I might have misinterpreted his friendly gestures considering he was already old (he was 53 then) and well respected. (In retrospect, a person's senior age is an overused excuse and seemingly a license to sexually harass women.)

However, these "friendly gestures" became increasingly uncomfortable to me. Thus, I decided to tell my boss about it. I informed him that I was uncomfortable with his gestures and if these were part of his work ethic, then I would be forced to resign. But he was quick to reassure me that there was no malice intended and he appreciated my frankness. So I stayed on. For a while it stopped but after several weeks or so, he began to be touchy again.

In fairness to my boss, he gave me opportunities to learn and grow. He encouraged me to find passion in reading and even acknowledged my potentials. Indeed, I learned a lot from him. It was for this reason, I was hesitant to do something about it.



As days went by, it was clear that I was being sexually harassed. But sad to say, I didn't go a step further and file a complaint. This was despite the numerous evidence I had including the letter he wrote me that seemed more like love notes. Worse, I didn't resign. I was trying to rationalize the whole situation. I was scared of creating a scandal considering he was a well-esteemed professional.

Lack of strength

The fact is my father is a lawyer. I also dreaded how my parents would react, knowing they would bring all possible legal actions against him. I even thought it was a mature decision to deal with it by maintaining my friendship with him and hoping that eventually, he will be able to go beyond his personal feelings toward me. Bottom line, I didn't have enough strength to fight for my rights as a woman and as a person.

I had been violated. I know that now, and perhaps I knew it all along then. But I was not as confident as I am now. I have gone a long way since then. I am now a medical doctor. However, there is still a part of me that continues to regret my lack of strong action. Things could have been different if I had asserted my rights. It is for this reason that I feel I must encourage other women who are in similar situations to go a step further and file a complaint.

Next steps

Lioness perceives that after her confrontation with her boss, she had been treated with indifference. While she definitely has a case for filing legal action, this is easier said than done. What she can do is to start gathering evidence against him. One way is to keep a daily journal of her office routine. This way, she can use it to show if indeed she had been discriminated upon by her boss. Next, she can get the other women employees who were similarly harassed to make sworn affidavits as well as the probationary employee who was allegedly terminated as a result of their complaint.

What has she to lose? Her job? Perhaps, perhaps not. Costly as it may seem, it is a risk that I encourage her to take. It will definitely be a tough road, but it will be all worth it. She will retain her self-esteem and dignity as a woman.

Enlightened Doctor

(Ms Puangco is CEO and president of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send comments, feedback or requests for advice through e-mail to ancillaedc@ pacific.net.ph *or fax to 892-2902.)*

Getting fired: an opportunity for change and growth

By Randall S. Hansen, Ph.D.

THE WORDS that strike fear in all working persons—fired, terminated, laid off, let go, dismissed, downsized, rightsized—mean only one thing: you're back on the market looking for new employment opportunities.

While you may find losing your job hard to deal with, most career experts say the best thing you can do is get right back into the job market—even if you've gotten a severance package—rather than sit around being discouraged. And you shouldn't be discouraged—look at this firing as a chance to start anew with a better opportunity.

How do you deal with being fired in terms of your resume and job-hunting? That's what this article is all about—getting you in shape to find an even better job than the one you had previously. What follows is the career tune-up checklist.

1. Decide on a career path or change. If you loved your last position and the industry you worked in, then you can move to the next point. But, if you weren't happy, now is time to think about a career change. What kind of transferable skills did you acquire from your previous employment? For example, if you worked in a college admissions office, but now want to get into sales, you have valuable sales and people skills—transferable skills from one position to another. If you're not sure what you want to do, you should do some self-assessment. You can find some great career assessment tests on the Web.

2. Tune up that resume. Ideally, you've been keeping your resume current, but if you have not, now is the time to take a hard look at it. Find some great resumes resources here, then:

- The first thing you need to decide is whether to include the job from which you were terminated on your resume. In most cases, you should include the job—unless you only worked there a short period of time (less than three months). Show an end date of your previous job. Focus on your accomplishments and achievements.
- Consider adding—if you don't already have these sections—a key accomplishments and transferable skills sections for your resume. Positioning these sections at the top of your resume also means you can downplay your actual employment history...or at least make it secondary to your accomplishments and skills. A functional resume, rather than a traditional chronological resume, will also serve this purpose.
- Develop both a traditional formatted resume and a scannable (text-only) resume. Since job-hunting has expanded greatly to include traditional methods as well as online methods, you really need to have both types.
- Get your resume critiqued. Ask someone in your network—possibly a former boss or college career office (most work with alumni) to review your new resume(s) and offer constructive criticism. We also offer professional resume critiques.

3. Resolve whether you are staying or relocating. Now is the time to think about whether enough opportunities exist where you currently live, or whether you need or want to relocate.

4. Network, network, network. Tell everyone you know that you are in the job market again. You don't need to tell them you were fired if you don't want to, but don't be ashamed of it either, as labor figures indicate that many people have lost (or will lose) their jobs involuntarily. Your network includes your family, friends, former co-workers, former bosses, neighbors, friends of friends—just about anyone. These people may not be able to offer you a new job, but they may know someone who can, so they play a vital role in your job search. And once you find a new job, make sure you keep networking rather than waiting until you don't have a job to do so. Read much more about the art of networking.

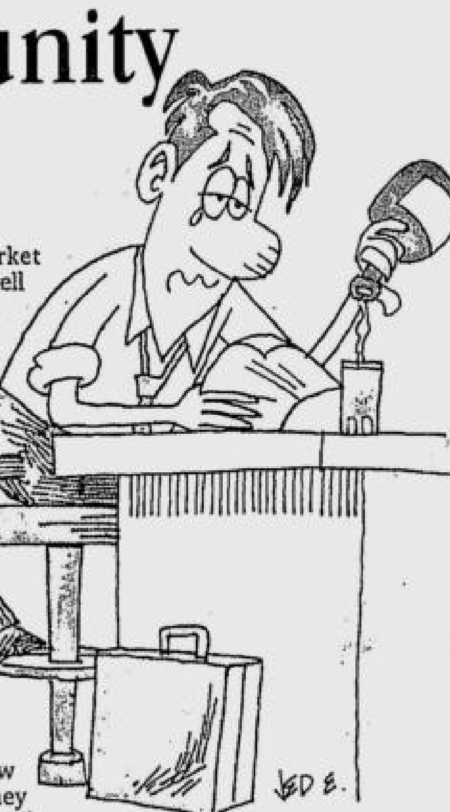


ILLUSTRATION BY JED ESTRADA

5. Revisit your references. Depending on the circumstances surrounding your dismissal, you may or may not have a good reference from your former employer. Now is the time—regardless—to revisit your reference list. You need to contact these people (which you should already have done from #4), inform them that you are again on the job market, and ask if they will still be a reference for you. If you know your former employer might give you a bad reference, it is extremely important that you have other people who will rave about your accomplishments and abilities.

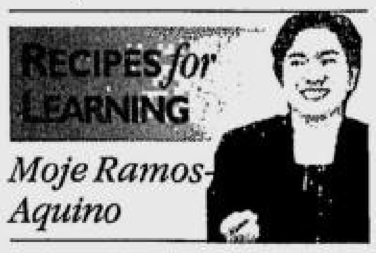
6. Be prepared to work. It's a cliché, but looking for a new job is now your full-time job. Stay focused and accomplish something every day.

7. Face the tough question. Be prepared with an answer when an interviewer asks you why you left your last job. Make sure you can articulate why your last job didn't work out and what you have learned from the experience. Never blame a former supervisor or employer—and don't make excuses.

8. Be prepared for rejection. You may be a little extra sensitive because of being fired, but remember that there is always a degree of rejection in any job search—so don't let it get you down. Keep looking forward.

(Copyright by Quintessential Careers. The original article can be found at: www.quint careers.com. *Reprinted with permission.)*

What are leaders made of?



RECIPES *for* LEARNING

Moje Ramos-Aquino

LEADERS are not born; they are made. Events, situations or other people oftentimes present leadership challenges. Particularly, crises and emergency situations call for strong and dynamic leadership. Change also calls for leadership. People look up to the direction and inspiration that a leader could provide.

Leaders at all levels

Organizations need leaders at all levels. Firemen and policemen provided and shared leadership at the World Trade Center last September 11. You might have been appointed the leader of your basketball team, your Valentine's Party Committee, your community outreach program, and others. You might have been elected officer of your class or club. These occasions needed leaders and you were chosen.

On the other hand, sometimes a leader senses the need for leadership and does what needs to be done. Politicians volunteer to run for office. Cardinal Sin saw the need and, therefore, issued a leadership call for Edsa 1. Members of the Lady Drivers Association of the Philippines in their beautiful business suits get off their air-conditioned cars and untangle a traffic mess cheerfully. We are never lacking for leaders. Without fanfare, they volunteer to take on various leadership roles such as mentor, coach, counselor, facilitator, sponsor, adviser and others.

What these mean is that anybody could be a leader. Fat, thin, short, tall, with doctorate degree, unschooled, rich, poor, men, women, Christians, Muslims, Bicolano, Ilocano, whatever. When opportunities present themselves, a leader will surely emerge no matter who, when, where, why and how. Thus, it is very alarming time when there is a leadership vacuum.

In your lifetime, you can never escape a leadership role. There will always be an occasion for you to lead, starting with leading yourself.

So, who is a leader? What is a leader made up of? What are the qualifications of a leader? What are the traits of a leader? How do you become a leader?

Competencies

In their book, "Understanding Leadership Competencies," authors Patricia Guggenheimer and Mary Diana Szulc identified nine competencies of a leader. From years of business experience, extensive research and observation, and interviews and from the results of focus group discussions in the United States, they created a competency model that captures the essence of how leading people in a variety of industries and fields of endeavor have lived. In the end, from 67 core competencies, their group narrowed down the list to nine leadership competencies.

These nine, with definitions from Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary and some examples, are:

"Passion: emotion; the emotions as distinguished from reason; intense, driving, or overmastering feeling or conviction; a strong liking or desire for or devotion to some activity, object, or concept; an emotion that is deeply stirring or ungovernable.

"The passions of Bill Gates are his work and the software Industry. What inspired Bill Budinger to transform Rodel, Inc., a manufacturer of polishing pads and slurries used to process silicon wafers and microchips, and achieve the quality, efficiency and cost-effectiveness to be competitive long term was Bill's passion to succeed and his passion not to fail."

Once a leader becomes certain what he wants, there is no stopping him. *Harangan man ng sibat.*

"Humor: an often temporary state of mind imposed especially by circumstances; the mental faculty of discovering, expressing, or appreciating the ludicrous or absurdly incongruous.

"The use of humor by a leader helps to relieve day-to-day pressures and instill a feeling of camaraderie.

"Living in our changing world involves uncertainty. 'When John Glen, the first US astronaut in space, was asked what he had thought about just before taking off into space, he said: I looked around me and suddenly realized that everything had been built by the lowest bidder. You can laugh, or you can cry.'

"Humor is about risk. It is about taking chances. It is about doing something in front of a group that people might not find funny and working with it. What if they don't laugh? What if it is not perceived as funny? That in a nutshell is the risk. And that is where the challenge begins.

"Terry Paulson writes in "Making Humor Work: Take Your Job Seriously and Yourself Lightly," 'It is dangerous to confuse professionalism with seriousness. You can take your job and the world seriously, and still take yourself lightly.'"

A leader puts other people at ease. He realizes his own mistakes and can laugh at himself. *Masayang kasama ang isang lider. Madaling lapitan at hindi nakakatakot.*

"Courage is the mental or moral strength to venture, persevere, and withstand danger, fear, or difficulty.

"Sometimes people are imprecise about their desires, even to themselves. It takes courage to delve into your desires and to see what values are actually driving them. It may take a crisis to get you to face up to your fears and to decide what really matters to you. You have to examine and to focus on your desires, where they come from, and what fears are keeping you from attaining them.

"Courageous leaders fight their fears and do what needs to be done in the face of opposition. To quote Oliver Wendell Holmes, 'What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.'"

My own favorite quotation on courage is "In the end, the only people who fail are those who do not try." Leaders are never passive. They take necessary action. They are more than brave. They are not afraid to make mistakes; they learn from them. They are not afraid to fall; every fall strengthens their character. They consider every barrier as a challenge and opportunity to test their mettle. *Hindi lamang matapang, matatag pa.*

We shall discuss the other six competencies (integrity and trust, energy /vitality/ enthusiasm, building a team, setting priorities, creativity and vision) next week.

What about you, what do you think are the knowledge, skill, qualification or capacity, experience of a leader? Why? Who is your favorite leader? Please e-mail your answer.

(E-mail feedback to Moje.Ramos@Aquino.ZZN.com*)*

Seminars help...

(From page B12)

MACKENZIE

MAPA

PUANGCO

ROSNER

focus on how to lead with honor.

On Aug. 27, People at Work Live! Seminar Series concentrates on its "Key Competencies Series." Ernie Cecilia returns with his talk on "Developing Personal Mastery." Career Systems Inc. president Josie Santamaria, on the other hand, will concentrate on "Developing Your EQ for Workplace Results" on Aug. 28. The August run will end with Lirio Mapa's talk on "Building Synergy for Organizational Excellence."

Graduating college students are the focus on September. To introduce them to the workplace, People at Work Live! Seminar Series will hold a one-day event on Sept. 28. The topics are "Managing Personal Change in a Competitive Environment" by Tita Datu Puangco, "How to Get a Job" by Ernie Cecilia and "Getting the Learning Edge for Career Success" by Moje Ramos-Aquino.

The yearlong activity ends on November with its "Management Skills Series." On Nov. 11, Asia Pacific Strategic Consulting Services regional director Alan Barker talks on "Effective Interpersonal Communication Skills." On Nov. 12, Josie Santamaria discusses "Coaching and Counseling Skills." Finally, on Nov. 13, Tita Datu Puangco focuses on "Strategic Thinking: A Guide to Identifying Opportunities."

All Metro Manila runs of the seminar series will be held at Equitable PCIB Tower 1 Auditorium, Makati Ave., Makati City. Registration forms are available at popular prices at the office of the seminar organizer, Optimus Managers & Advisors, Inc., at the 2nd floor, Benjamin I Bldg., 62 Sgt. Esguerra St. corner Mo. Ignacia Ave., South Triangle, Quezon City. Forms will be available at all INQUIRER Classified Ads branches by February 4.

The People at Work Live! Seminar Series is made possible with the help of companies who care for people at work: Equitable-PCI Bank, Amtrust Leisure Corp./ Enchanted Kingdom, ABS-CBN Publishing/ Working Mom, Center for Leadership and Change, Inc., S & G International Consulting, Inc., Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, Inc., Paradigms & Paradoxes Consultants, Career Systems, Inc., EC Business Solutions and Career Center, Strategic Consulting Services, IMPACT Consultancy Group, Lubid Inc., Audio Visual Driver International (Phils.) Inc., Adobo Interactive and Single Search Philippines.

The People at Work Live! Seminar Series invites other companies who care for people at work to sponsor these events that enable working people to achieve work excellence. For inquiries, call the Optimus office at 414-0186 and 414-0587.

e-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph.

PEOPLE at WORK

Raul O. Marcelo, Editor ■ Regina Galang Reyes, Subsection Editor

How do you look good to a computer scanning your resume?

Do you maximize the use of keywords and jargon?

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

DEAR WW: Recently, I read that most companies use computers to do their first screening of resumes. I was shocked. What can I do to make sure I'll look good to a computer?

Trying To Be Computer Friendly

I once took a cooking class that was given by the owner of a popular Indian restaurant. The students looked like teachers' pets on the first day of school, practically salaaming to the teacher as she explained the dishes she'd be teaching. Their obsequies faded, however, when instead of making ghee, Indian clarified butter, she brought out a giant tub of Crisco. "You use Crisco!" the students protested, "but . . . it's not authentic!" From behind her sizzling skillet the teacher smiled. "Believe me, if Indian women had a shortcut like Crisco, they'd use it."

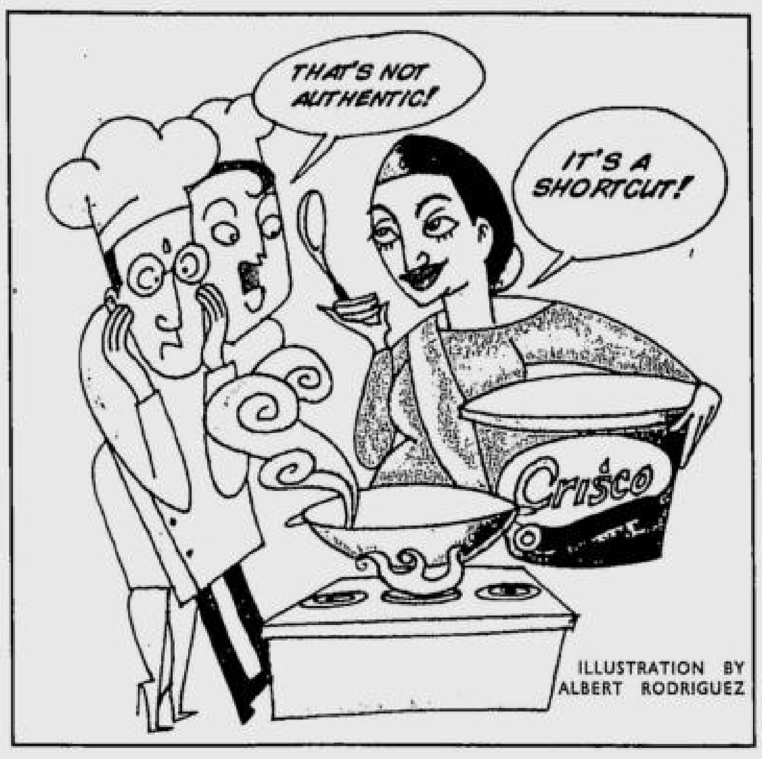

THAT'S NOT AUTHENTIC!
IT'S A SHORTCUT!
Crisco

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Well, HR departments in corporations have found their equivalent of Crisco and yes, it's the computer. Today, most companies make fast food of resumes by using computers to scan them. But that doesn't mean you have to get deep-fried. Kim Marino's book, "Just Resumes" (Wiley, 1997), is full of sample resumes and strategies that will help make your resume computer-friendly. I've adapted the following tips from it.

- Is your resume on plain white paper? Computers prefer a bland diet when they're trying to digest a stack of resumes. Colored paper, graphics and shading all increase the odds of a scanner error.
- Is your name the first thing the computer sees? Most resume scanning programs assume that the first line of text on the resume is your name, so spoon-feed it exactly what it's looking for.
- Does your resume use the language of the classified ad? Computers look for candidates whose experience matches the skills the company has said it is seeking. So salt your resume with the same language the company uses.
- Is your resume cluttered? Computers look for white space to recognize different sections of a resume, so be sure to include breaks between each section. (This will also make your resume more human-friendly, in the off-chance that a human actually stumbles across it.)
- Is it long enough? Some job-hunt experts advise you to limit your resume to a page or two. But Marino suggests that when a computer is doing the screening, more is better. She recommends up to three or four pages for people who have a lot of relevant experience.
- Do you maximize the use of key words and industry jargon? Computers are programmed to look for key words that can help distinguish candidates with industry experience. A computer that's screening accountant candidates, for example, might look for "accountant," "accounts receivable/payable" and "audit." So serve up a resume chock full of industry jargon.

Hopefully, if you follow these tips from Ms. Marino, the computers that scan your resume won't eat you alive, and your resume will become a satisfying entrée into a new job.

Here are the results of the recent workingwounded.com poll: What's your opinion of using computers to scan resumes?

—Makes no difference, 17.2 percent
—Makes sense, 34.4 percent
—Makes me uneasy, 48.3 percent

Our winning strategy for surviving the resume scanner comes from Dolores S. in Port Reading, NJ. "My office uses resume scanners to select job candidates. Faxing your resume is the best way to start the job search quickly, but faxed copies are too blurry and many words will get flagged as spelling errors (i.e., "r" blurs into "n," etc.). Fax your resume to start the process but follow-up right away with a mailed hard copy. Even in an age of modern technology, scanners like old-fashioned mailed resumes the best."

(Send feedback to bob@workingwounded.com)

Seminars help people at work move up in hard times

TIMES may be hard but this should not stop people at work from taking charge of their own learning and career growth.

For the second year, People at Work Live! Seminar Series brings noted speakers, trainors and consultants to help working people meet the challenges and demands of today's workplace.

The People at Work Live! Seminar Series kicks off on March 18 with its "Change Management Series." It starts with Ancilla president Tita Datu Puangco's talk on "Managing Work-Related Stress." Recognizing that stress affects one's working habits, Puangco will show how to enjoy work better and ensure that your life remains balanced. On March 19, Center for Leadership and Change, Inc. vice president Lirio Mapa gives a talk on "Surviving Workplace Change." Mapa will teach how to adapt and adjust to workplace changes. On March 20, Mark MacKenzie, managing principal of S & G International Consulting, Inc., will discuss "Leading Organizational Change." MacKenzie will identify different types of change and how employees at all levels in an organization can manage these changes.

To celebrate People at Work's second year anniversary, "Working Wounded Survival Guide Series" brings Working Wounded columnist Bob Rosner for a two-day speaking engagement on May 29 and 30. He is an author, a syndicated columnist, businessman and Internet entrepreneur dedicated to bring humor to the otherwise serious and somber workplace. He will present "12 Steps to Better Bossing" and "The Working Wounded Survival Guide."

In June, People at Work Live! Seminar Series brings its resource persons to Enchanted Kingdom for its "Work and Family Balance Series." The event is designed to help families adapt to the changing times. On June 15, Ernie Cecilia, EC Business Solutions and Career Center president, will teach working parents "Negotiating Your Way to Success." It will be followed by Synx Elma and Lubid Inc.'s "Team Building for Families—An Outdoor Learning Experience." The last event for the day will focus on "Balancing Career and Family Life." On June 22, Recipes for Learning columnist and Paradigms & Pardoxes president Moje Ramos will teach "Assertiveness in Communication," followed by "Team Building for Families" by Synx Elma and Lubid Inc. The last event for the day will concentrate on "Getting Ahead at Work without Leaving Your Family Behind." On June 29, Tita Datu Puangco returns with "Achieving Your Personal Vision in Troubled Times." Then, Synx Elma and Lubid Inc. will hold its third run of the family team building adventure. Wrapping up the Enchanted Kingdom event is a talk on "Breaking the Glass Ceiling: Women's Path to Career Success."

Come July 25 and 26, People at Work Live! Seminar Series goes out of town with its two-day seminar at The Aquino Center in Tarlac. Called "Leadership Series," Tita Datu Puangco will talk about personal vision; Moje Ramos-Aquino will discuss assertiveness in communication; Ernie Cecilia will teach how to negotiate your way to success; and Lirio Mapa will

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GAMBOLING IN CEBU

2bU! scours the scorching South and returns with a report on the blisteringly passionate Sinulog festival and a searing rundown of the sights, sounds and smells of Cebu

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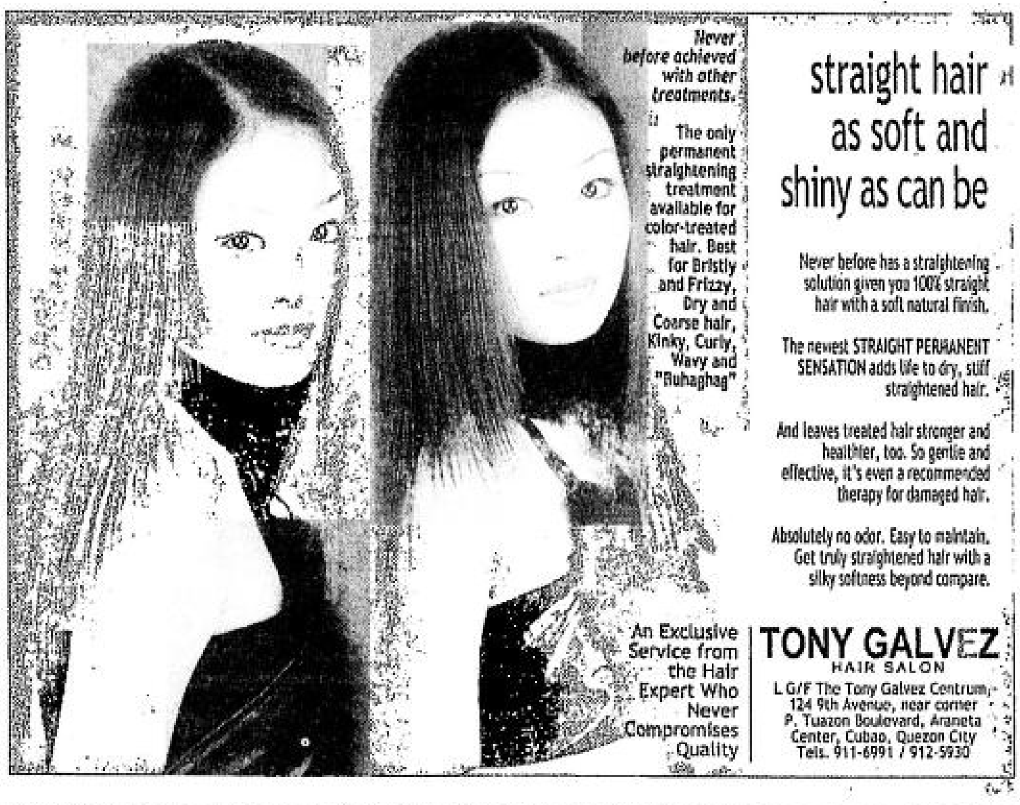

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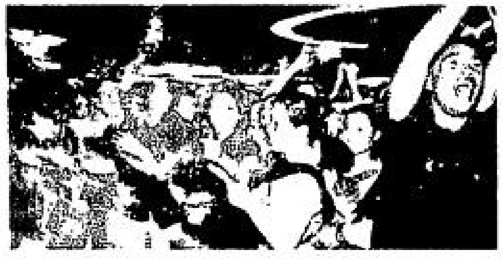

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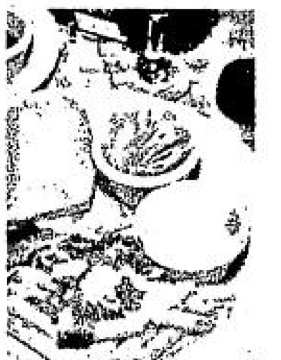

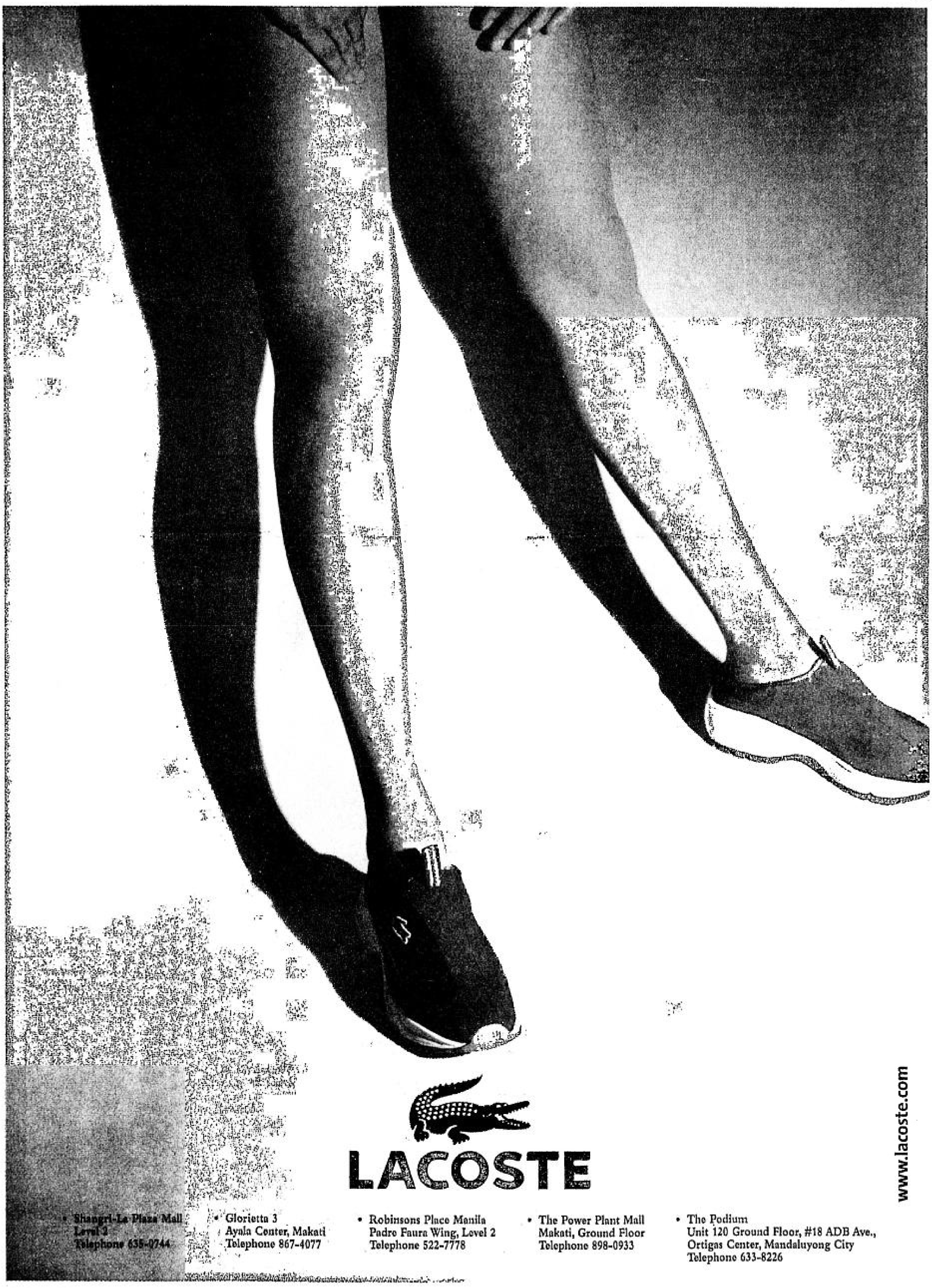

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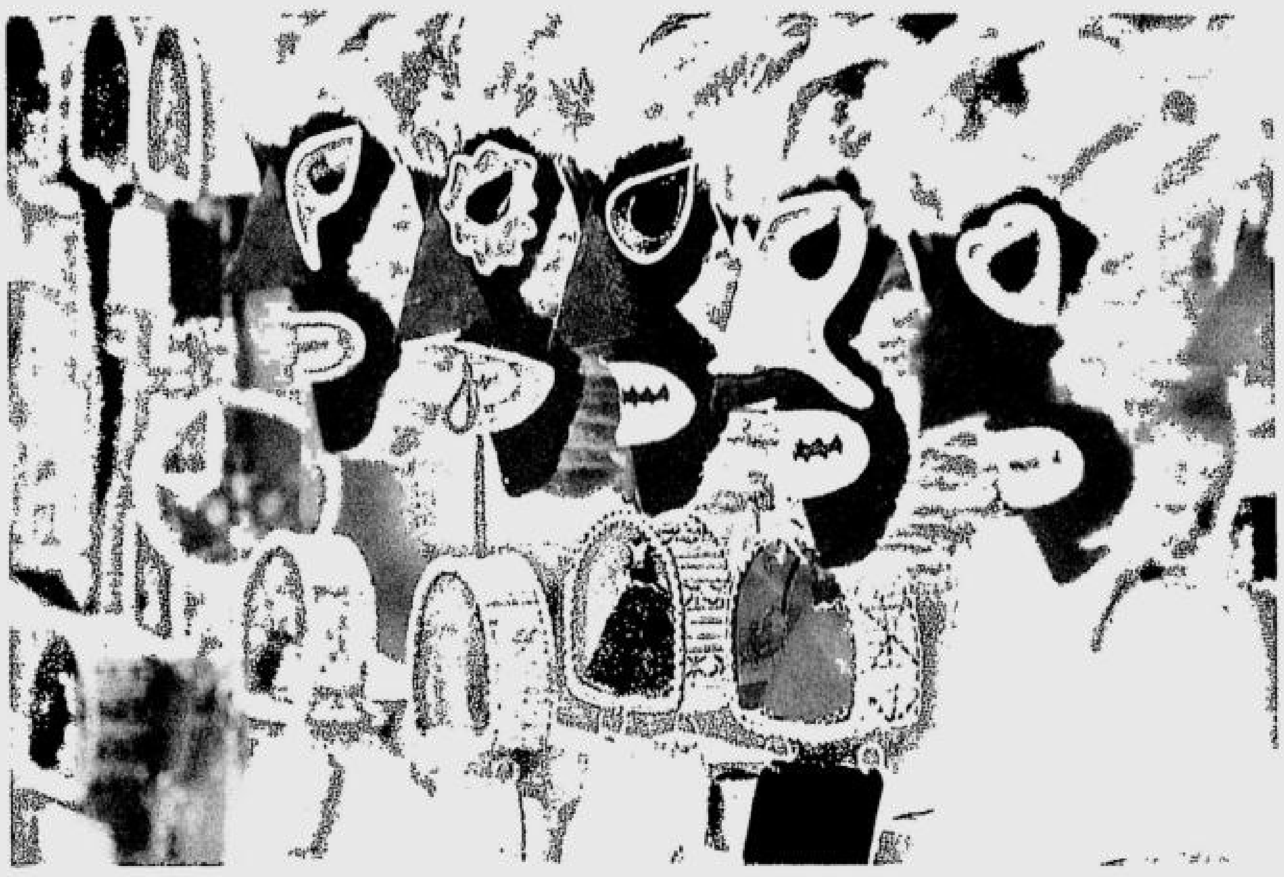
A [illegible] diary



By Pam Pastor

I found my soul in the Sinulog. Here's why

JANUARY 20, 2002

5 a.m. Woke up and groggily headed for the bathroom. Slept for only 40 minutes. Jason called me in the middle of the night because of hunger pangs. We decided to go to AA BBQ in Fuente, another Cebu must-stop. Since there were no cabs, we walked the whole way, arguing about my ineptness at geography the entire time.

5:45 a.m. Met the others at the lobby, trackpants and running shoes on, ready for anything — even miles of walking. Soon, we were on our way to the University of San Carlos, where we would be meeting the members of the Sandiego Dance Company, Smart's sponsored dance troupe.

6:30 a.m. Turns out that the group was still practicing. We had a quick breakfast of sandwiches and soda and settled down to have our faces painted.

7 a.m. Ruth had a sun drawn around her eye. The artist had cleverly copied the flower on Jason's Hawaiian shirt onto his cheek. I got a colorful tribal design on my left cheek and forehead. The face paint had a good effect on us—it was like war paint, and adrenaline pumping, we felt ready for anything. Bring in the heat and the crowd. But the parade wasn't about to start. We decided to pass the time by watching the people pass by and the ROTC cadets lining up on the sides of the streets.

8:30 a.m. Little kids in colorful costumes started walking—we thought the parade had started. But they were still practicing. We sat on the sidewalk and watched.

9:30 a.m. Finally, the parade started. I saw the Sandiego Dance Company for the first time. Their white clothes looked immaculate in the heat of the sun. I was touched deeply by their strength—how they chose to continue with their dance offering despite the tragedy a few days ago. Their founder's ancestral home burned down and the group did not only lose a dance studio, they lost a home, they lost mementos, they lost memories. This did not stop them from paying tribute to their beloved Sto. Niño.

10 a.m. We had been walking alongside the Sandiego dancers for quite a while now. Unlike Jason, I did not wear a hat and I purposely did not slap sunscreen on. I was determined to get dark—am sick of constantly being too pale. This little decision is something I regret to this day.

10:30 a.m. We reached the bleachers that were put up for Smart. It was right beside Caltex. It was hot—we were sweating profusely. I had to pull up my trackpants to my knees to allow my legs to breathe. Ruth decided to wash off her face paint. I refused to do the same, wanting to revel in the spirit of Sinulog. Not washing my face then was another decision I regret to this day.

The different dance troupes marched and stopped in front of us to perform. One group I cannot forget was the Tribu Cogon. It wasn't only because of their eye-catching blue and silver costumes. Their excellent—and possibly death-defying—acrobatics remain fresh in my memory to this day.

It amazed me how many people turned up for the Sinulog. How the streets were closed off, how people didn't care about the heat or about the huge crowd. It felt really good to be right in the middle of it. I was far from Manila, but I felt completely at home.

There were endless cries of "Pit Señor." This Cebuano phrase means, "We have a petition, Sir!" This is their way of asking the Sto. Niño for favors. The Sinulog is the annual celebration of the feast of Cebu City's patron, the Señor Sto. Niño. *Sinulog* means current—definitely an understatement of the flow of revelry we bore witness to and participated in during our trip.

12 p.m. Faces all red and sweaty, Ruth, Jason, Edu Jarque and I decided to have lunch at Starmart, which was right behind the bleachers. We watched the parade from the air-conditioned store, soothed by the cool air.

1 p.m. The four of us were to go back to the hotel to rest for a bit. Jason was half-asleep by this time. They all went straight to their rooms—but for some reason, I had enough energy to head off to the Ayala Center.

I went up to my room just to wash my face. To my horror, the colors washed off but the imprints of the tribal design were left on my cheek and forehead. I am not at all vain—but I draw the line at looking like a total idiot. But since I was still completely into the spirit of the Sinulog, I shrugged it off, thinking more scrubbing could get rid of the marks later.

Hied off to Ayala. Even the mall was festive. There were dancers moving around, performing to the delight of the people.

2:45 p.m. Back at the hotel.

3:15 p.m. I was about to fall asleep when Ruth called. We were going back to the parade.

3:30 p.m. Left for the parade again. This time, we had to stop blocks away and walk and jostle with the crowd.

4 p.m. We were once again with the Sandiego Dance Company. I could not count the number of times I saw them dance, but I couldn't get enough of it. The little 5-year-old girl dancing just amazed me—the 8-month-old baby was even more fascinating. We kept walking and stopping to watch them dance again and again and again.

6 p.m. It was amazing to see how people reacted to the Sandiego dancers. While they applauded the other dance troupes, the crowd evidently had intense feelings for the group—the crowd would tighten around them each time they would dance, people would suddenly jump in to hug one of the dancers; they were even shedding tears.

Soon, the parade was over. It had gone on for nine hours straight. We continued walking with the Sandiego dancers—wherever they were going. Even in side streets, they were being applauded. Some dancers were celebrating, the others crying.

6:30 p.m. We sat on the sidewalk of the street of their ancestral home. As Jason interviewed Val, their founder, I chatted with four dancers—Cindy, Abigail, Louanna and Oliver. They spoke of the parade, dancing, their lives, their passions. Oliver said, "You're dancing for the Sto. Niño—that's what's on your mind. That makes you forget the heat and forget that you're tired." Oliver said that after the parade ended, there was one thought on his mind, "*Saan tayo uuwi?*" But then he shrugged, "*Basta sama-sama pa rin kami...*" They spoke of the importance of the dance company in their lives—how it had become their second family. These passionate young people intended to keep dancing a major part of their lives. "As long as we can dance, as long as people keep shouting for us to dance."

I asked them why the people reacted so strongly to them. They spoke truthfully, their words not laced with bravado, "We made Cebu proud of us." And yes, they still do.

While we were talking, they were given their dinner—burgers from a fast-food chain. I was handed a burger which I refused to accept in the beginning. But they insisted. They were even inviting us to stay and celebrate with them. These people were generous, even in their loss. But we couldn't stay. We left reluctantly. That evening, I left a part of myself behind—on that street, with those people.

Back in Manila, people have constantly been asking, "How was the Sinulog?"

"Emotional," I answer. And I am met with quizzical looks. You had to be there, I want to say. But maybe now they understand.

The face paint marks on my face have also been receiving attention. My classmates ask, "*Sa banig ka ba natulog?*" My officemate, "Pam, *may kalmot ka sa mukha...*" and loud and tactless echoes of, "*Ano yan?!*"

Hey, bugger off, that's my Sinulog souvenir.

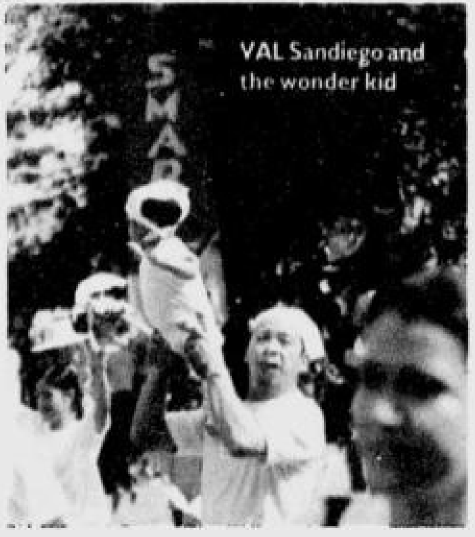
When you think about it, it's only fair. The Sinulog left marks on my face. I left a part of my soul in Cebu.

E-mail the author at cookiedough junkie@ yahoo.com

Swirling and swaying and suffering—all in the name of the Niño

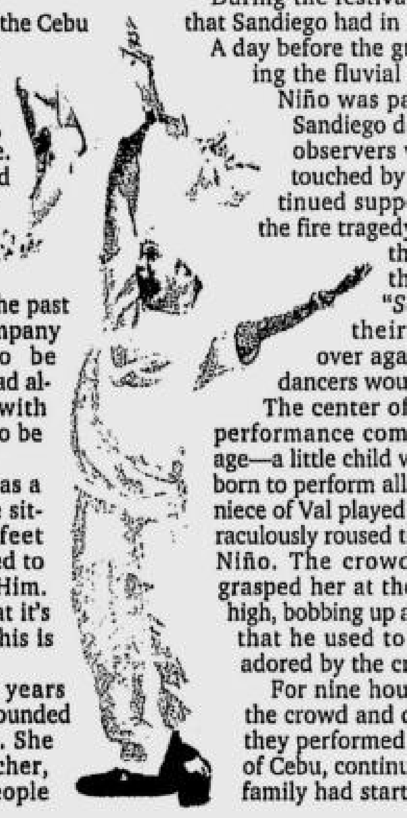
Days before, their ancestral house had burned down. But the Sandiego dancers left it all to the good Lord and danced an unforgettable frenzy in the Sinulog

THE YOUNG members of the Sandiego Dance Company were all smiles before the grand show



VAL Sandiego and the wonder kid

THEY easily stood out. Amid the colorful and flashy floats and costumes at the Sinulog Festival, one group of dancers stood above the rest if only for their all-white costume. Dressed in white shirts and jeans, with flowers and images of Sto. Niño in tow, they professed their devotion to the child Jesus through basic dance steps, and the occasional "Pit Señor!" that they shouted out together with the crowd. Cebuanos who were all too familiar with their grand costumes of the previous years, understood their sudden shift to simplicity this year. The renowned Sandiego Dance Company, after all, had suffered from a major setback just a few days ago.



It was all on the front pages of the Cebu dailies. Just two days before the Sinulog parade, the ancestral home of Val Sandiego, choreographer of the dance company, burned down in a 10-minute fire. Eighty-five of his most treasured Sto. Niño icons were charred along with the house, along with the costumes that he and his wife had painstakingly worked on and collected the past years. This year, the dance company members were supposed to be dressed up as angels, and they had already prepared a float to go with them. But sadly, the plan had to be cancelled.

"I know that the Sto. Niño has a reason for this," Val said while sitting on the sidewalk, a few feet away from where his house used to stand. "I have strong faith in Him. Although, for now, it seems that it's too much for us, I know that this is just a test."

It had been more than 50 years since his mother, Luz Mancao, founded the Sandiego Dance Company. She was a Physical Education teacher, who sought to teach young people good values even outside the classroom. With dance as her medium, she taught them the importance of discipline and hard work, to the rhythm of ballet and folk dance. Today, Val continues the tradition started by his mother, inspiring 19- to 25-year-old youths to honor the Child Jesus.

The Sinulog parade, which also happens to be a contest, has seen the Sandiego Dance Company win consecutively since 1994, thus earning them hall of fame status. But for Val, it's not really winning that make them want to go out and perform in front of hundreds of people, but their devotion to the Sto. Niño himself.

During the festival, though, it was obvious that Sandiego had in fact acquired some status.

A day before the grand Sinulog parade, during the fluvial procession when the Sto. Niño was paraded in the waters, the Sandiego dancers were met by tearful observers who were emotional and touched by the dance company's continued support of the festival despite the fire tragedy. During the parade itself, they were always urged by the crowd with chants of, "*Sayaw! Sayaw!*" to repeat their performance over and over again. And Sandiego and his dancers would do so.

The center of attraction in Sandiego's performance complemented the child image—a little child who appeared to have been born to perform all her life. The 8-month-old niece of Val played a sickly child who was miraculously roused to perfect health by the Sto. Niño. The crowd cheered loudly as Val grasped her at the thighs then held her up high, bobbing up and down. Later, Val told us that he used to be that young kid being adored by the crowd.

For nine hours they did that, pleasing the crowd and doing themselves proud as they performed all throughout the streets of Cebu, continuing the tradition that Val's family had started so many years ago. After their last performance, the crowd gave them a standing ovation as they did in the stadium earlier. On their way home, groups of people cheered them and even hugged them for their bravery in being part of this year's festivities. For Val, and for the rest of his company, they were the people who pulled their spirits up, serving as their inspiration to move on.

Jason Doplito

NONSTOP DEVOTION. These guys don't look like they've danced for the last nine hours.

"PIT Señor!" Isn't their energy infectious?

UST theater group presents new play

ARTISTANG Artlets, the official theater guild of the University of Santo Tomas, will stage "At Iba Pang Layak," its second minor production for the school year.

The play depicts the sordid plight of orphans forced to fend for themselves in a perilous society. Two brothers remain optimistic despite the atrocities they have to face.

"At Iba Pang Layak," written by Dong A. de los Reyes, will be shown 1, 3 and 5 p.m., Feb. 21-23 at the Rizal Conference Hall, St. Raymund's Building, UST. It is directed by Angeli de los Reyes.

Artistang Artlets has been in continuous active service to the Thomasian Community for the past 21 years.

Call Marian Grace Gomez at 749-2531, (0919) 845-3662; Lucille Sodipe at 928-8558 or Aileen Garbin at (0919) 350-8051.

British education fair at Shangri-La Plaza

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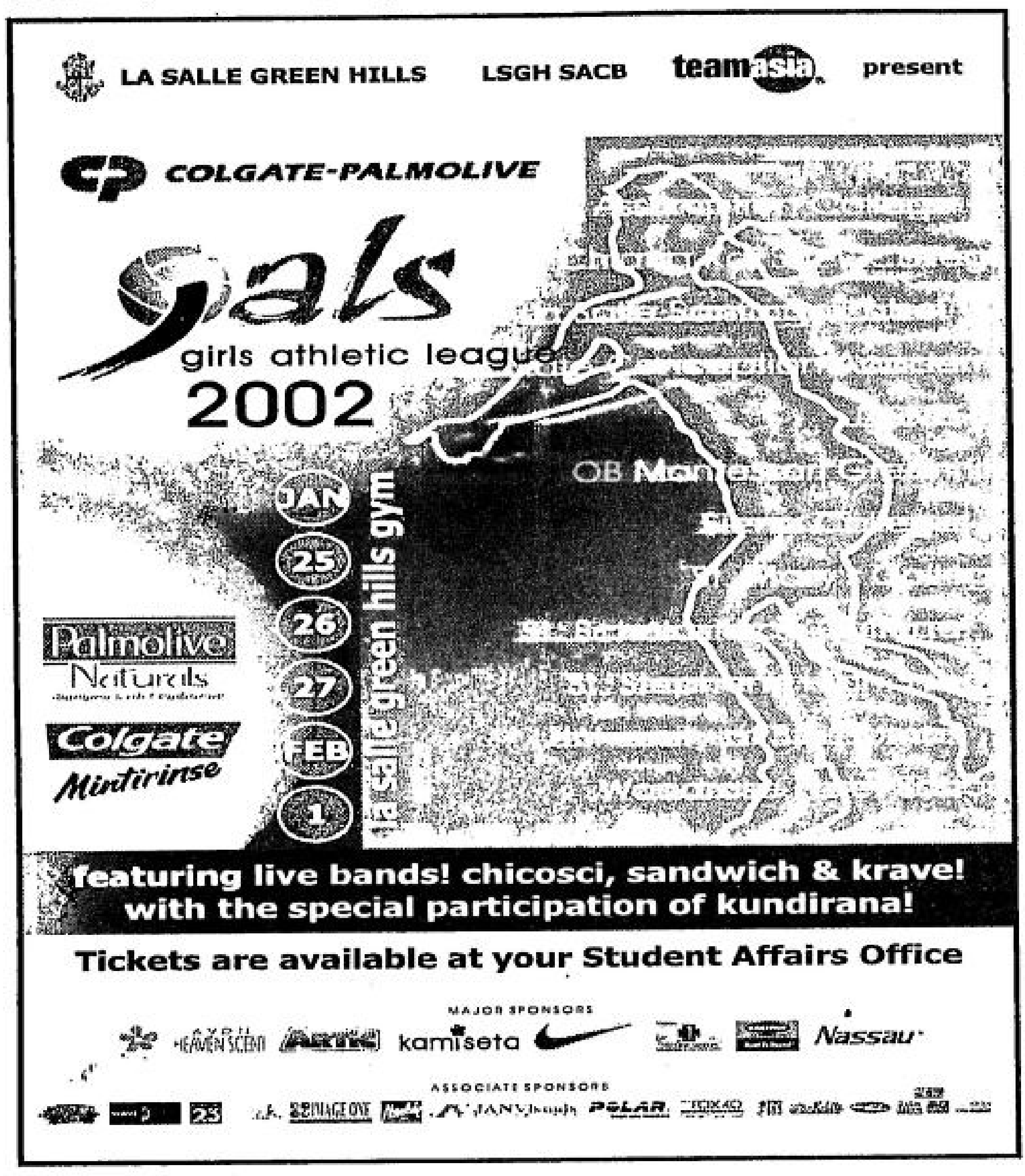
Students and parents are invited to attend the British Education Fair dubbed "Global Minds: UK Education Fair 2002" on Feb. 1-2, at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel in Mandaluyong City. Thames will also conduct admissions examinations and interviews at the fair. Call 723-2202 or 727-0924.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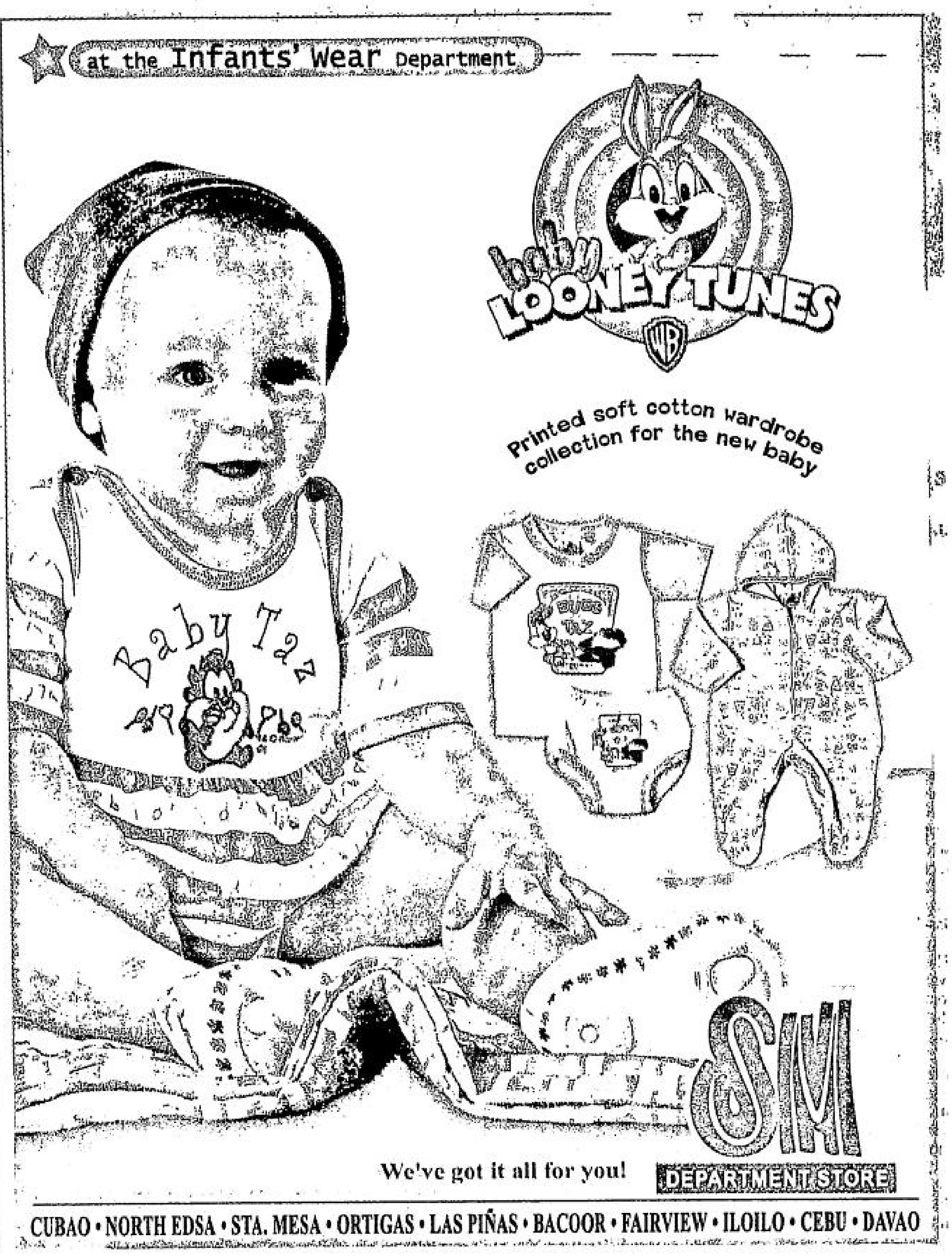
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CAN IT GET ANY BIGGER?
With Wendy's new BIG-A-BOOM Meal Combos, it just did!
Some people want more! And with Wendy's Big-a-Boom, you get just that. Choose from any four BIG Meal Combos
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P69 BOOM 2
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BIG meals.
BIG taste.
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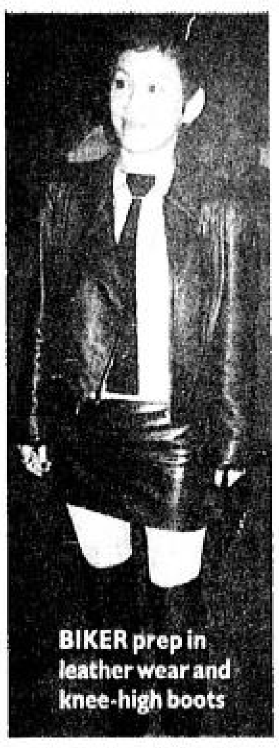
Don't pay more, just get more!
BIG-A-BOOM Wendy's
All combos include a large softdrink (473 ml.)

LACY lass strikes a Techno pose.

SPRING fever spells w-h-i-t-e!

MARTINI POSE. Pouf skirt lass horsing around

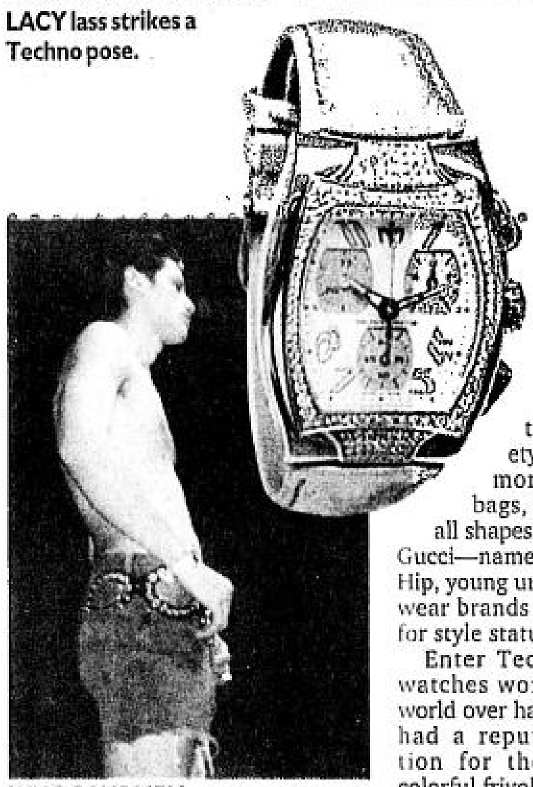
HODGE-PODGE style with fur, denim and plaid


BIKER prep in leather wear and knee-high boots

PINK PALS. Kitsch chic during the event

PHOTO op with Joyce Oreña Stadler

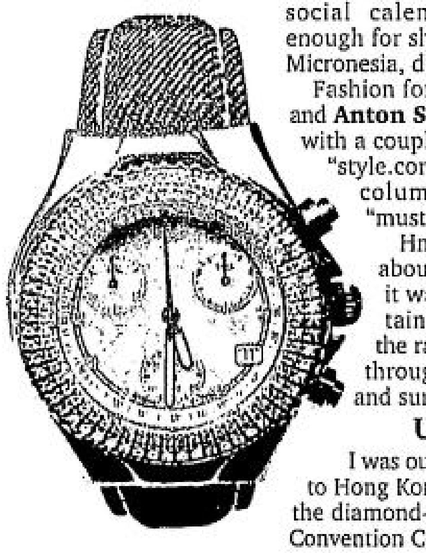
This beat is Techno-tronic!


WHO SAYS MEN CAN'T WEAR PASTELS? They did at the launch of the Techno Square at the Hong Kong Convention Center

Tim Yap

IT used to be the majestic Pajero, which was replaced by the gigantic Ford Expedition for politicos and their breed. For society matrons, it would be monogrammed handbags, pouches and totes in all shapes and colors—LV, Dior, Gucci—name it, they must have it. Hip, young urbanites look at sportswear brands and vintage clothing for style status symbols.

Enter Techno Marine. These watches worn by hot celebs the world over have had a reputation for their colorful frivolity and hardware quality. In his Preview mag (January 2002 issue) article, globetrotting trendspotter **Gino dela Paz** defined the diamond encrusted beauty as—"Nu-school wrist furniture for sporty humans with active social calendars; sturdy enough for sharkspotting in Micronesia, dressy enough for cocktails."



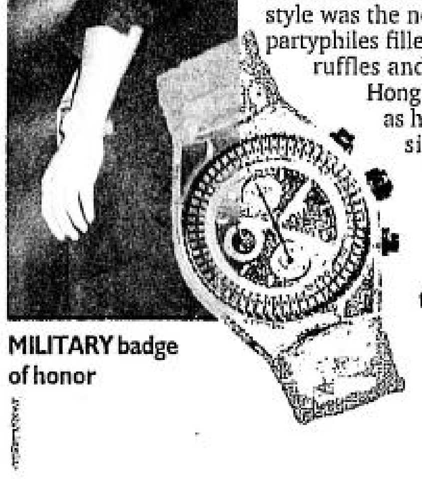
Fashion forecasters **Joyce Oreña-Stadler** and **Anton San Diego** raced each other, along with a couple of Conde Nast publications and "style.coms," to declare in their individual columns that Techno Marine is the "must-have" watch of the moment.

Hmmm. Well, maybe the great thing about a sportswear brand is that, since it was designed to endure rigid mountain slopes, underwater pressure and the race track, it will most likely see you through the ups and downs of daily life and survive a good night out, too. Right?

Unconventional style

I was out to prove that point when I hopped to Hong Kong recently to attend the launch of the diamond-studded Techno Square at the HK Convention Center. "It's gonna be a great party," boasted **Raffy Florencio**, the man behind Rafael Jewelry—that hot, hot Shangri-La Plaza boutique where the all-too-precious Technos (and moissanite, too) can be found.

The venue led to a labyrinth wrapped in black cloth. A hall with a trio of cyber glass cages with urban warriors decked in edgy funk wear wore their multicolored Techno Marine to the hilt. Inside the convention center, "unconventional" style was the norm. In true Hong Kong fashion, partyphiles filled the hall with faux (I hope) fur, ruffles and tattered denim.


MILITARY badge of honor

Hong Kong society is perceived by some as highly materialistic, with an obsession for screaming signature brands, real or reel. With that, Techno Marine seems to be poking fun at the "Hongkese" (short for Hong Kong Chinese) fascination for status symbols—this time in a gilded, diamond encrusted time bracelet. I can see the "*tai tais*" now in a mad rush for this watch aimed initially at the hip, young set.

That night, a trend show transpired with a fringe fest, hippie chicks and black-and-white tulle draped young bodies with the only constant thing being the spectrum of colors on their wrists. Later, a foreign-looking DJ took centerstage as the young partyphiles grooved to his beat.

Status symbol

A respected, elderly man whom I met during cocktails suddenly approached me during the DJ set and said, "Hey, you want Ecstacy? I want to drop, but my wife is here!" Uhh, no thanks, I said. That's soo two years ago. And I thought HK people were hip.

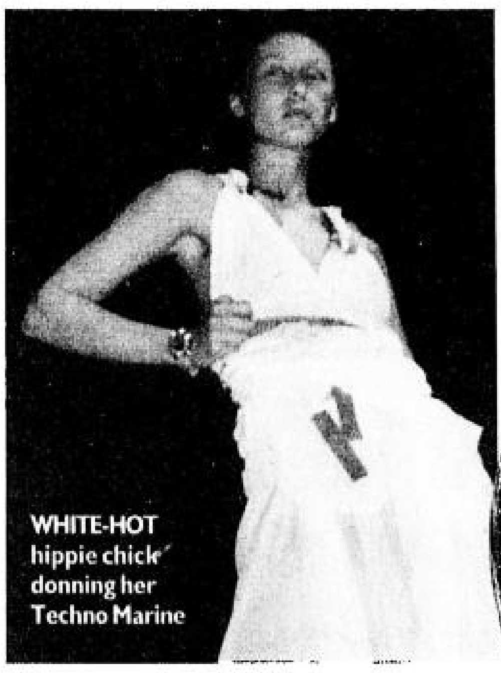
From there the Pinoy delegation party hopped around town—it was party night that weekend. At Conrad, we saw for ourselves how the Harbor City media flocked and flicked their flashbulbs with every sight of Filipina stylesetter **Audrey Puckett-Chiu**, who is also designer **Rajo Laurel**'s muse.

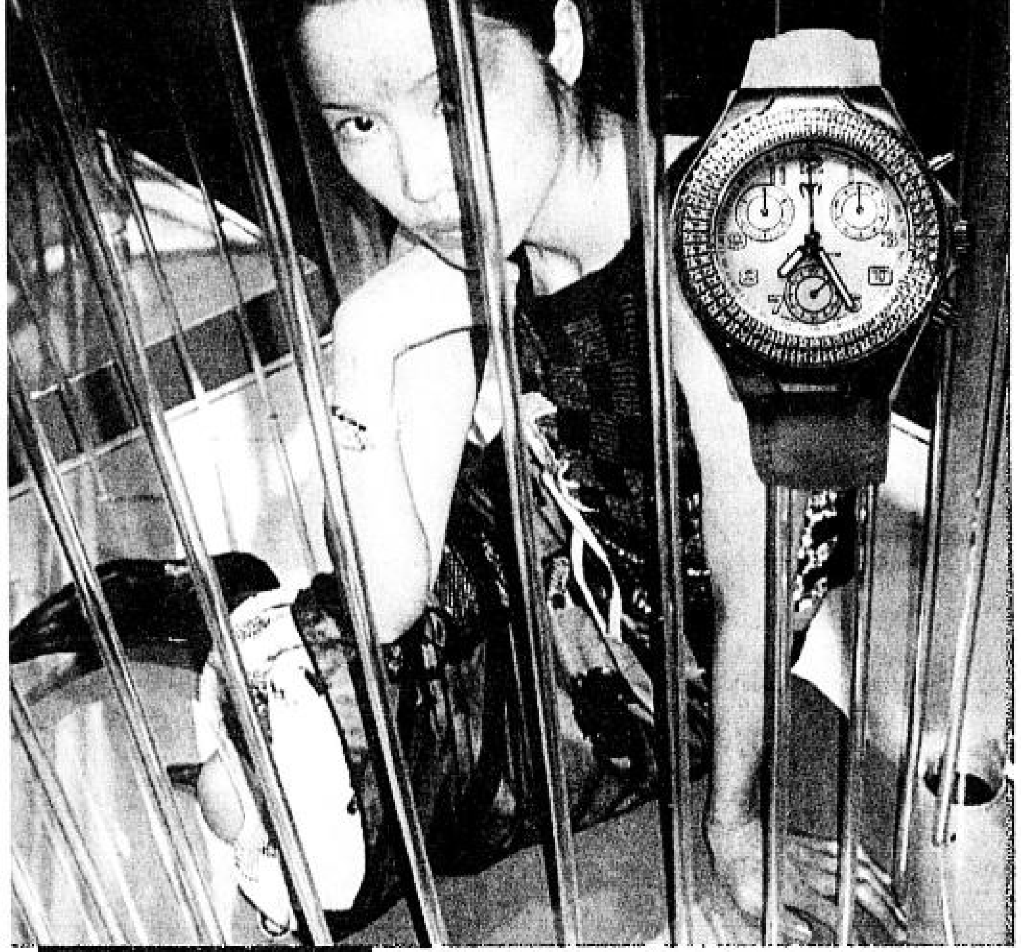
That weekend, I shop-hopped with Anton at his choice stores—Joyce, Prada, Gucci, Joyce, Prada, Gucci and so on. When my turn came, I pulled Anton along to the Island Beverly young designer "*tiangge*" type of stores. At first, he was skeptical—"What's in here?" with one eyebrow up. Later, we both had a ball shopping. Anton is my ideal shopping mate. The stuff I like he doesn't like and vice versa—so no tugs of war over purchases.

After that invigorating weekend in Hong Kong, I looked at my watch and realized it was time to head home. I called the concierge to postpone my flight—I still wanted to take a nap, maybe do last-minute shopping. Now that's status symbol.

This week in the scene

Last night, car enthusiasts, old and new guard partyphiles met and matched when young turk **Paolo Martel** launched C! at the NBC Tent. In case you don't know, C! is the hippest motoring magazine to hit the shelves this season. So if your motives gear toward the auto, then grab a copy at your nearest mag stand.


WHITE-HOT hippie chick donning her Techno Marine


BEHIND BARS. Techno Marine babe in cyber funk

REBEL with a stylish cause flaunts his Techno Marine.

Tonight, Dish goes its usual celebrity route, this time though tides are turned as these sizzling scene-stealers serve you your favorite drinks—as Dish bartenders! Imagine **Assunta da Rossi** pouring you a drink, or having jello shots with **Vina Morales** and **Daphne Osena**, party on with angels **Aquino** and **Jacob**, down that "blow job" with **Troy Montero**, **Derek Ramsey** and **Diether Ocampo**, or have a "screaming orgasm" with **Giselle Tongi** and **Pia Guanio**—the list goes on and on. So come one, come all.

Wanna have a shot at seeing your face worldwide? Then hop on to Wherelse? this Friday in your chinois best as the E! crew turns their cameras to our Philippine isles. **Kristin Maliah**, the blonde babe who hosted the Golden Globe E! after-party, will fly in just to host the event with **Lana Asanin**. "They will shoot only in one club, in one party, so grab that chance!" said, who else?, but **Marcel Crespo**, excited about his club's global television debut.

Then, Saturday in Singapore, or before your TV sets—tune in to the first MTV Asia Awards. **Ronan Keating** and **Mandy Moore** host, with a global array of stars gracing the event—Westlife, Blue, Pink, Bond, the Rock, **Michelle Yeoh** and more! Cirque du Soleil and Groove Armada provide entertainment. And the winner for the favorite local artist? My guess is **Regine Velasquez**. Well, we'll find out this Saturday. Let's see if my psychic skills are correct. For now, as my watch says, it's time to go.

PHOTOS: TIM YAP

URBAN guerrillas sporting edgy styles

TECHNO MATES. Linear Limited managing director Serge Choukroun with wife Yoyo

HK hopping with furry friends

STYLE-SPOTTING in Hong Kong with your columnist, Joyce Stadler and Anton San Diego

JOIN THE MARINES. Raffy Florencio and Goody Ilagan

MEN OF THE MOMENT. HK promoter Brian Chung and Newman Chang

HK SOCIETY. Bonnie Ho and Alan Hao, prexy of Techno Marine Asia-Pacific

PERFECT FOR ANY LIGHTING CONDITION.
(Even for those in the limelight.)
Kodak
MAX
NEW!
400

The spree scene in Cebu

By Jason Doplito
2bUI correspondent

WAITING sucks. At 4 a.m., you would think that cabs are easy to come by, but not in Cebu, where it seems that teenagers have so defied the temptation of their bedrooms and their mother's curfew that there's no single available cab in the streets. As to whether they're on their way home or to another party, I wouldn't know. But definitel[illegible] they practically give new meanin[illegible] the word "nightlife"; teenagers [illegible] to think of sleeping as another form of procrastination.

It is this Cebu energy that drives artists and entrepreneurs to flock to this city. During the weekend of the recent Sinulog Festival, a number of the country's top performers were down South to experience this vibe. Martin Nievera, the excellent performer that he is, brought the house down at the Waterfront Hotel.

Now I don't even want to guess where Cebuanos get their energy. Perhaps, it's the dried mangoes or *danggit*. But for whatever reason, teenagers here are swarming all over the place—from bars to gas stations. It wouldn't come as a surprise then if more and more hangouts would continue to mushroom all over the place. In fact, there are two relatively new nightspots—the Crossroads and Ayala Entertainment Center—that have bunched together some of the hottest clubs. The Smart Bar Tour took us to these places and allowed us to party till early morning. They are to be blamed for this insomnia mania among teenagers.

Brix Sports Café (Ayala Center)

The night is young and there's still room for alcohol in your body. You've barely picked up your energy. You've barely met up with all your friends. What to do? The Brix Sports Café, at the second floor of the Ayala Center, may just hold the answer. Part chill, part techno, the mood in this bar is perfect for those who are just about to prowl for their night's prey. There are large tables at the corner that is a perfect *tambayan* for big *barkadas*. And while waiting, you may want to try out some Filipino meals that the café is ready to dish out for you.

THE SINULOG spirit is alive even at Brix Sports Café

ZSA Zsa Padilla sizzles and shines as Martin's guest performer.

However, their name is quite a misnomer, for billiards is the only sport we get to see in here. But then again, billiards can prove to be just enough for teenagers since everyone plays it. For Latin culture lovers, you may also want to check this place out for their music.

Ratsky's (Ayala Center)

This is probably the largest Ratsky's yet, and it's hot! Never mind if the show band performing still plays "Dancing Queen" or "Better Off Alone." You have to admit we all still feel that secret desire to get loose and dance on these tunes (Okay, Pam's guilty, not me). On that particular night, we saw Ogie Alcasid, Raymart Santiago and Mark Nelson dancing to "Sexbomb," among others. This fact is important, considering how Cebuanos tend to be easily starstruck, so don't miss out on Ratsky's if you want to do some star-spotting.

This two-level bar not only boasts of good music but also good food as well. Checking out the menu, we find some dishes irresistible if only for their creative names. For example, under the Barkada Feasts, the dishes are grouped into three: the Fresh Catch (seafood, *calamares*, shrimp, mussels), Pinoy (*kinilaw na tuna*, *sisig*) and Sosi (cheese, nachos, quesadillas and fries). Definitely, all are worth pigging out on. You must take note though that despite the numerous tables and spacious floors, the bar can be easily filled up with people so better get there early.

Also, check out Ratsky's from time to time for a concert of the country's top performers like South Border and Regine Velasquez.

M! V!da (Ayala Center)

Apparently, the Jennifer Lopez and Ricky Martin mania is still alive and kicking this side of the planet. M! V!da is known in Cebu as the club for all salsa and Latin music lovers. This place is always jam-packed with people who are ready to groove once the drums start beating.

Wild-spirited individuals are willing to motivate their boring counterparts by dancing on top of tables, the bar area and the ledge. And they're not just any individual, mind you. Some are actually drool-worthy.

Block Oneseven (Crossroads)

If you feel like wearing your leather jacket and displaying your marvelous dreadlocks, then just head on to Block Oneseven. Being here feels like being in an underground ghetto club, which is a cool place to be. The place has an industrial look to it matched with the two giant pseudo-industrial fans at the bar area. There are steels everywhere and for a moment, it does feel like you're in a block party somewhere. Block Oneseven seems small at first, but with some ecstatic fusion, the tight crowd seems all right.

The music is absolutely good and hard ravers are sure to enjoy it. You won't hear any of the mainstream techno music here, definitely. Think Toti Dalmacion, who is up the DJ booth that night we are the night's stalkers.

Vudu (Crossroads)

Perhaps, it is a bad night. Still, we cannot hide the question mark on our faces when we get to Vudu. It is a two-floor club, the first of which looks like a chill-out room for people who want to give themselves a few minutes of break. The second floor looks like the dancing area, but apparently, during that night, no one feels like doing so. The place is packed with yuppies and we fear that this can be the reason for the "conservative" partying that takes place. Anyhow, it may be worth checking out some time.

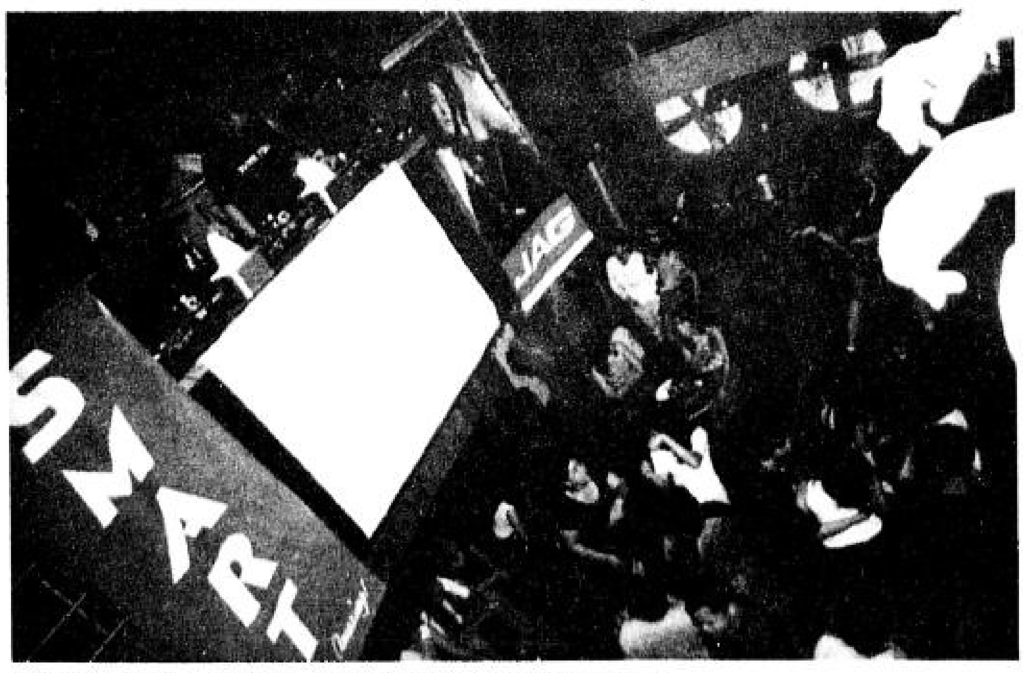
"AAAH..." Martin Nievera doing some stretching in his Crossover concert

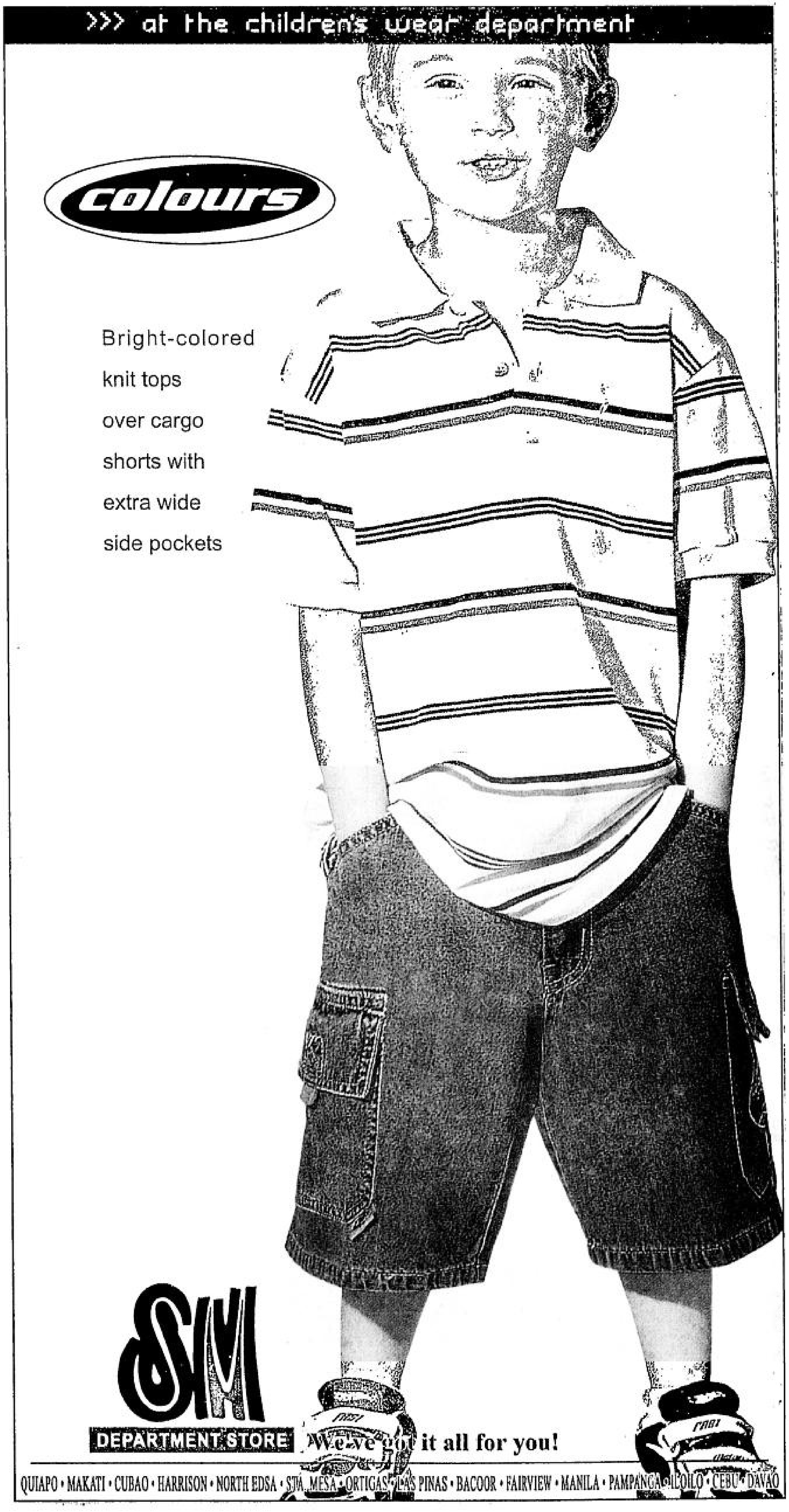
NIGHT swingers jiggin' with it.

> The Queen City of the South reigns as a party place

PAINTING the town red... and blue and yellow. Marc Nelson with Smart's Ruth Tadeo

THE RESURRECTION of the "Dancing Queen" at Ratsky's


BLOCK ONESEVEN. The club straight out of Pink's video


>>> at the children's wear department
colours
Bright-colored
knit tops
over cargo
shorts with
extra wide
side pockets
SM
DEPARTMENT STORE
We've got it all for you!
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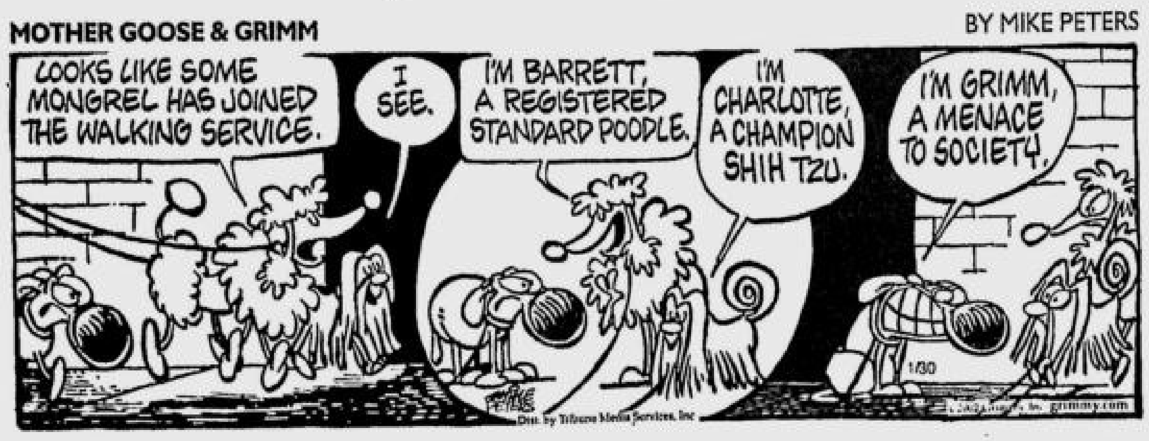
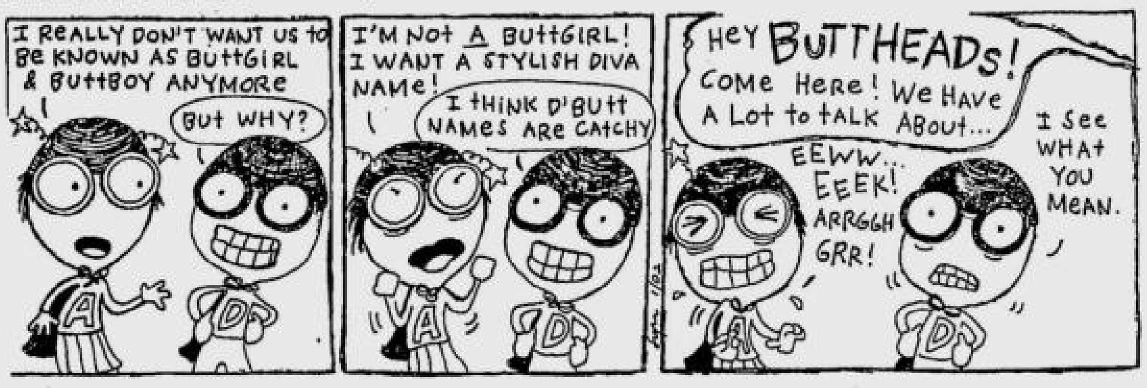
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


LOOKS LIKE SOME MONGREL HAS JOINED THE WALKING SERVICE.
I SEE.
I'M BARRETT, A REGISTERED STANDARD POODLE.
I'M CHARLOTTE, A CHAMPION SHIH TZU.
I'M GRIMM, A MENACE TO SOCIETY.
1/30
Dist. by Tribune Media Services, Inc
grimmy.com

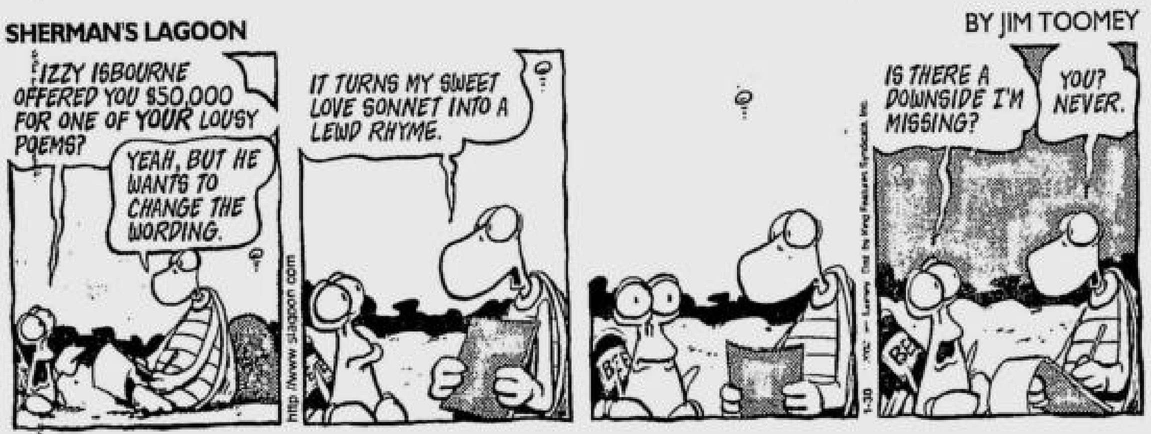
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


I REALLY DON'T WANT US to Be KNOWN AS BUttGIRL & BUttBOY ANYMORE
BUt WHY?
I'M Not A BUttGIRL! I WANT A STYLISH DIVA NAME!
I tHINK D'BUtt NAMES ARE CATCHY
HeY BUTTHEADs! COMe HeRe! We HAVE A Lot to tALK ABOut...
EEWW... EEEK! ARRGGH GRR!
I See WHAt YOU MeAN.

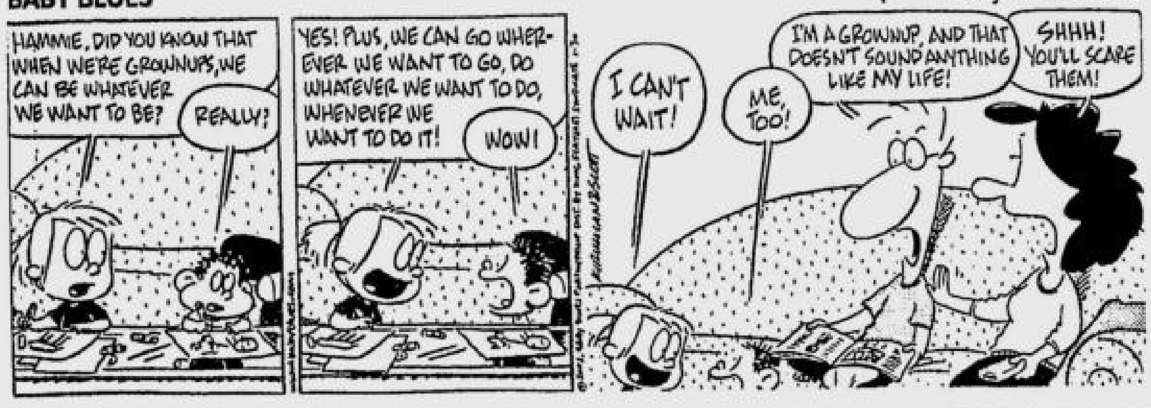
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


IZZY ISBOURNE OFFERED YOU $50,000 FOR ONE OF YOUR LOUSY POEMS?
YEAH, BUT HE WANTS TO CHANGE THE WORDING.
IT TURNS MY SWEET LOVE SONNET INTO A LEWD RHYME.
IS THERE A DOWNSIDE I'M MISSING?
YOU? NEVER.
http://www.slagoon.com
1-30

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HAMMIE, DID YOU KNOW THAT WHEN WE'RE GROWNUPS, WE CAN BE WHATEVER WE WANT TO BE?
REALLY?
YES! PLUS, WE CAN GO WHEREVER WE WANT TO GO, DO WHATEVER WE WANT TO DO, WHENEVER WE WANT TO DO IT!
WOW!
I CAN'T WAIT!
ME, TOO!
I'M A GROWNUP, AND THAT DOESN'T SOUND ANYTHING LIKE MY LIFE!
SHHH! YOU'LL SCARE THEM!

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Christian Bale, Vanessa Redgrave, Tammy Grimes, Dick Cheney

Happy Birthday: Back up and make sensible plans this year. If you aren't precise in your actions, you will find it difficult to get anything off the ground. You may not have a clear assessment of yourself or your abilities. Your numbers are 7, 16, 27, 33, 45, 49

ARIES (March 21-April 19): The stress level is high today so be sure to take some time out to regroup and reorganize your game plan.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Take a close look at yourself and prepare to make changes. You will be pleased with the results you get and proud of yourself for making the effort.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't take everything you hear to heart. Your feelings will be easily hurt if you let someone get away with making snide comments.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You need to get out more and enjoy the company of others. This is a great day to get involved in social activities, group endeavors or family outings.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): What's your rush? Slow down and take your time. Avoid hasty decisions that could end up costing you plenty.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You may lose your temper over trivial matters; patience and self-control will be necessary. Get involved in do-it-yourself projects to avoid confrontations.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Take time out to do the little things for yourself. You will feel rejuvenated if you rest, relax and pamper yourself.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't hesitate to ask for suggestions. You can ask for favors and get sound advice from close friends and relatives.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): All it will take is a little ingenuity and ambition in order to get ahead.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Business trips will be successful and eye-opening. Opportunities to make career moves may lead you in new directions as well as geographical location.

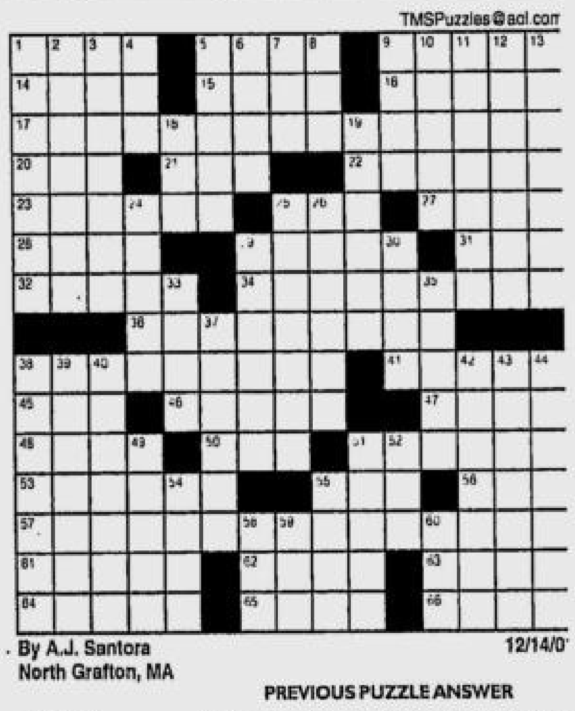
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Investments should pay off. Real estate should be looked at seriously. You should be able to make a move that will put you in a solid financial position.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Someone close to you is likely to disappoint you. Don't expect anything; instead take care of yourself and your own needs.

Birthday Baby: You work well with others. You always make sacrifices and compromise in order to have everything around you run smoothly. You need to live in a pleasant environment or you find it difficult to do your best.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By A.J. Santora
North Grafton, MA

12/14/01

ACROSS
1 Swiss chain
5 Chimney passage
9 Language group of Zulu
14 Bog down
15 Witticism
16 Item in a squirrel's cache
17 What life is just
20 Buddhist sect
21 Impressive skill
22 Existence: Lat.
23 Spoke from a soapbox
25 Letters on McGwire's cap
27 Slugger Sammy
28 Western alliance letters
29 Joyride
31 Tillis or Torme
32 Oodles
34 Tranquillity
36 Whole life
38 Developing gradually
41 Macho stud
45 Summer in 46A
46 City in a WWI song
47 Chip's chipmunk pal
48 Lacquered metalware
50 Williams of the Red Sox
51 "From __ with Love"
53 Intl. agcy.
55 Ignited
56 Ready to go
57 "Life"
61 Spud
62 Texas city
63 Colloquial intensifier
64 Beginning
65 Spouted pitcher
66 Barely passing grades

DOWN
1 Large, strong-willed women
2 Broad-minded
3 Supinate's opposite
4 Stitch
5 Norwegian inlet
6 Departed
7 Trojans of coll. sports
8 Numerical ending
9 Rustic building
10 Parcels of suburbia
11 Foul
12 Locks
13 Breaks shrink-wrap
18 Papua New Guinea port
19 Actress Brennan
24 Namely
25 Rejected disdainfully
26 Process for sorting the injured
29 Male escort
30 Imprint clearly
33 Lose control
35 Necessities
37 Turbine part
38 Do, on the sly
39 Certain English schoolboy
40 Chooses
42 Huge
43 Property recipient
44 Makes tidy
49 Cosmetician Lauder
51 Exactitude
52 Tony-winner Hagen
54 Brusque
55 Shoestring
58 Meadow mama
59 Gullet
60 Last letter from London

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

B	O	B	S	■	B	A	S	S	■	T	A	P	E	S
A	B	L	E	■	A	L	I	T	■	O	M	E	G	A
Y	O	U	T	E	L	L	M	E	■	R	O	A	R	S
S	E	E	■	C	L	O	P	■	F	E	N	C	E	S
■	■	■	W	H	A	T	S	N	A	U	G	H	T	Y
P	E	R	I	O	D	■	■	E	S	P	■	■	■	■
A	L	O	N	E	■	M	A	R	T	■	B	A	M	A
L	A	V	E	D	■	A	N	D	■	T	A	M	I	L
O	N	E	S	■	N	U	T	S	■	H	Y	E	N	A
■	■	■	■	A	I	D	■	■	W	R	O	N	G	S
I	W	I	L	L	T	E	L	L	Y	O	U	■	■	■
N	A	S	A	L	S	■	E	E	E	E	■	G	A	P
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T	R	E	Y	S	■	A	R	E	S	■	T	E	S	S

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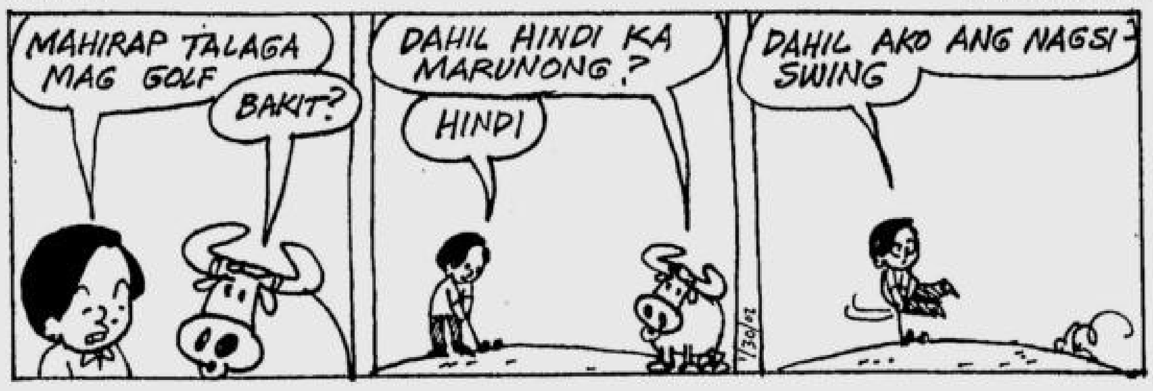
12/14/01

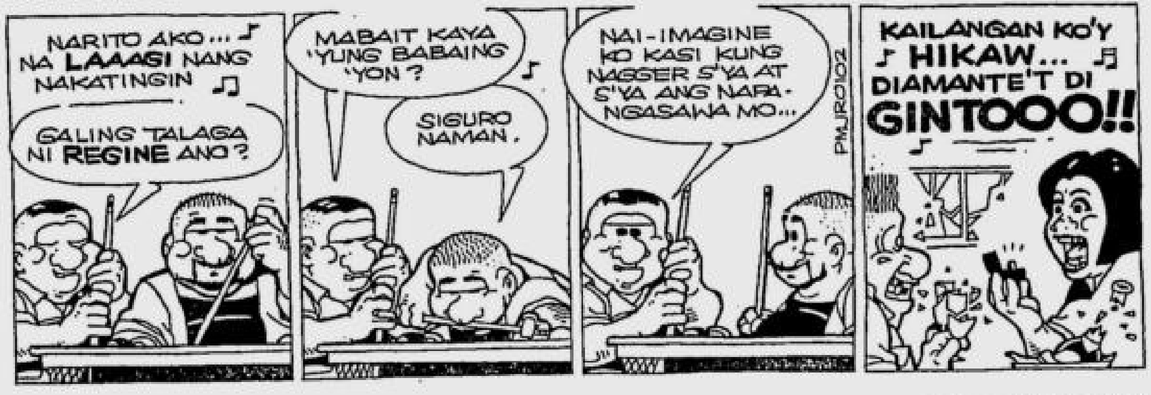
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MAHIRAP TALAGA MAG GOLF
BAKIT?
DAHIL HINDI KA MARUNONG ?
HINDI
DAHIL AKO ANG NAGSI-SWING
1/30/02

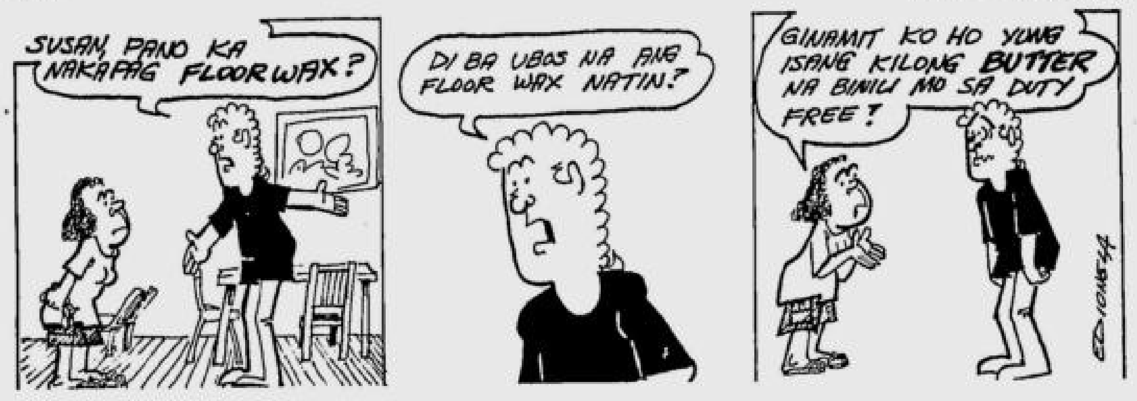
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


NARITO AKO... NA LAAAGI NANG NAKATINGIN
GALING TALAGA NI REGINE ANO?
MABAIT KAYA 'YUNG BABAING 'YON?
SIGURO NAMAN.
NAI-IMAGINE KO KASI KUNG NAGGER S'YA AT S'YA ANG NAPAPANGASAWA MO...
PMJR0102
KAILANGAN KO'Y HIKAW... DIAMANTE'T DI GINTOOO!!

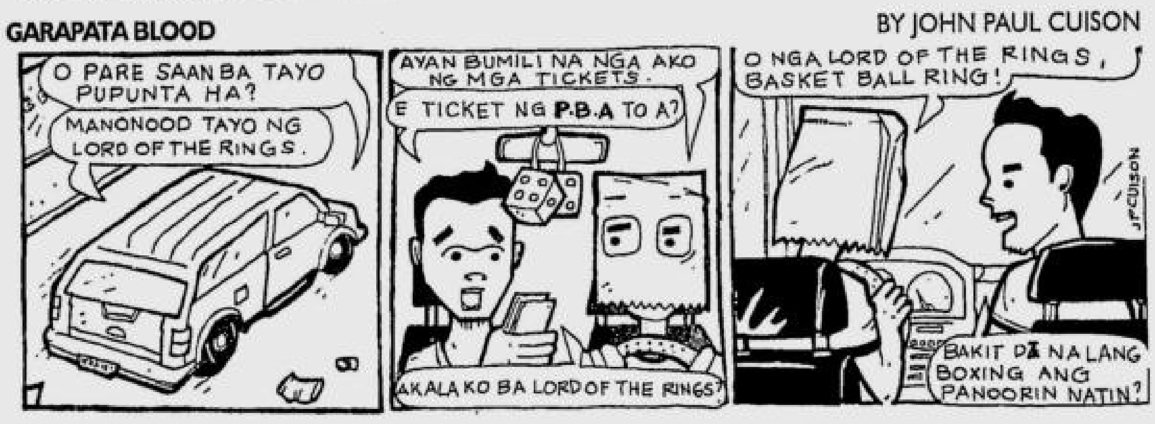
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


SUSAN, PANO KA NAKAPAG FLOORWAX?
DI BA UBOS NA ANG FLOOR WAX NATIN?
GINAMIT KO HO YUNG ISANG KILONG BUTTER NA BINILI MO SA DUTY FREE?
EDIONELA

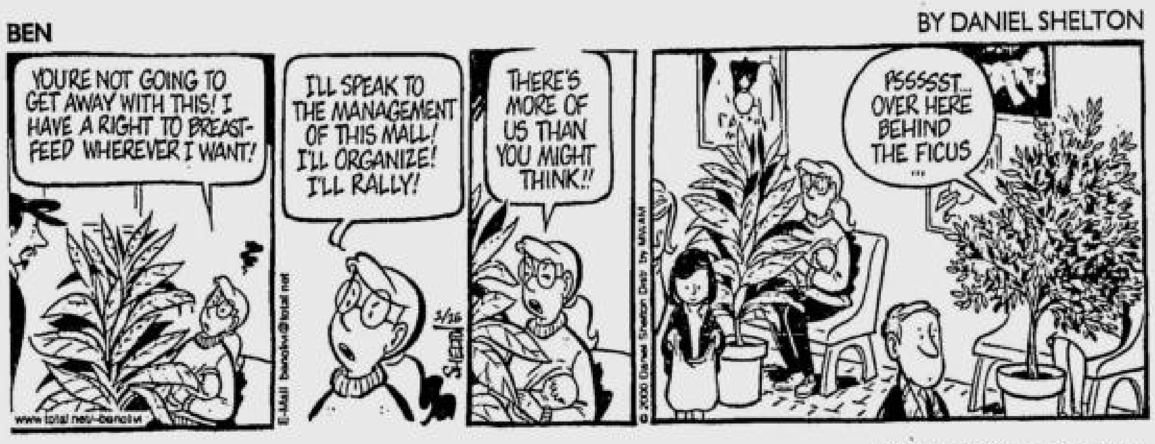
GARAPATA BLOOD

BY JOHN PAUL CUISON


O PARE SAAN BA TAYO PUPUNTA HA?
MANONOOD TAYO NG LORD OF THE RINGS.
AYAN BUMILI NA NGA AKO NG MGA TICKETS.
E TICKET NG P.B.A TO A?
AKALA KO BA LORD OF THE RINGS?
O NGA LORD OF THE RINGS, BASKET BALL RING!
BAKIT DI NA LANG BOXING ANG PANOORIN NATIN?
JPCUISON

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON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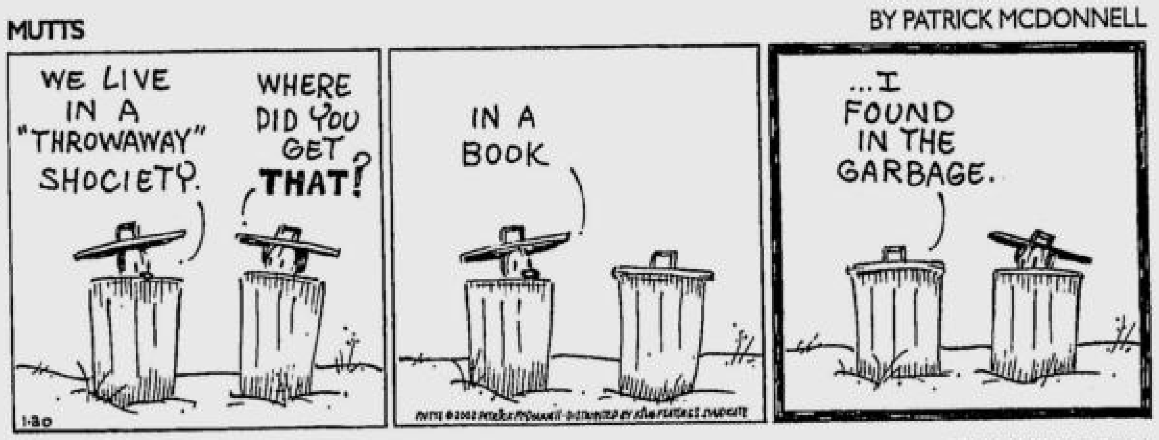
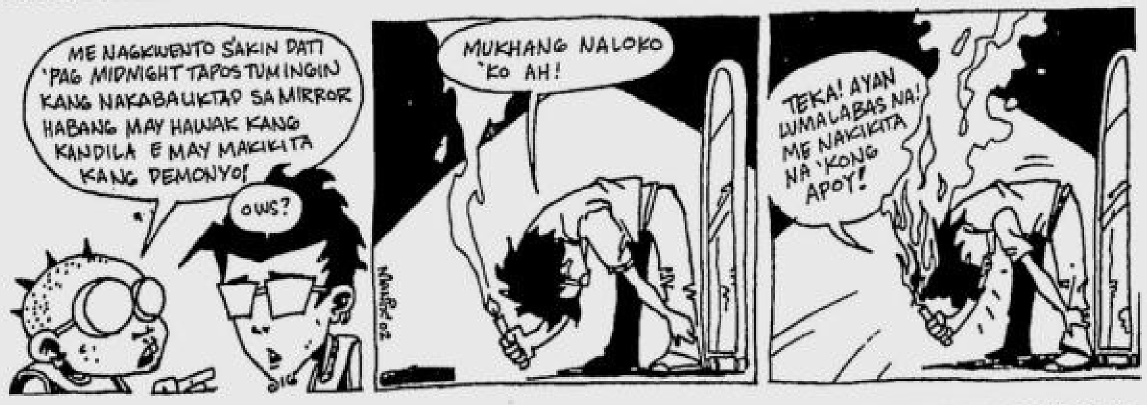

WE LIVE IN A "THROWAWAY" SHOCIETY.
WHERE DID YOU GET THAT?
IN A BOOK
...I FOUND IN THE GARBAGE.
1-30

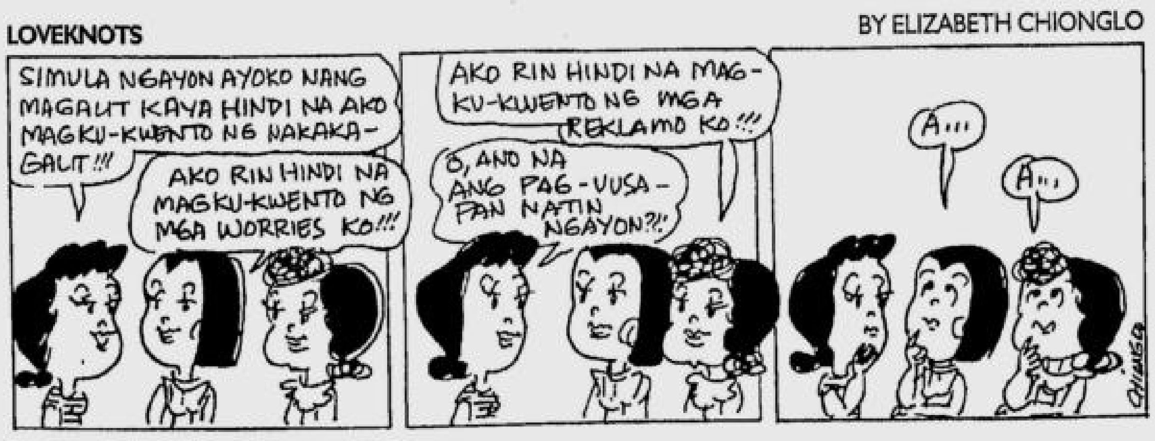
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


ME NAGKWENTO SAKIN DATI 'PAG MIDNIGHT TAPOS TUMINGIN KANG NAKABALIKTAD SA MIRROR HABANG MAY HAWAK KANG KANDILA E MAY MAKIKITA KANG DEMONYO!
OWS?
MUKHANG NALOKO 'KO AH!
TEKA! AYAN LUMALABAS NA! ME NAKIKITA NA 'KONG APOY!

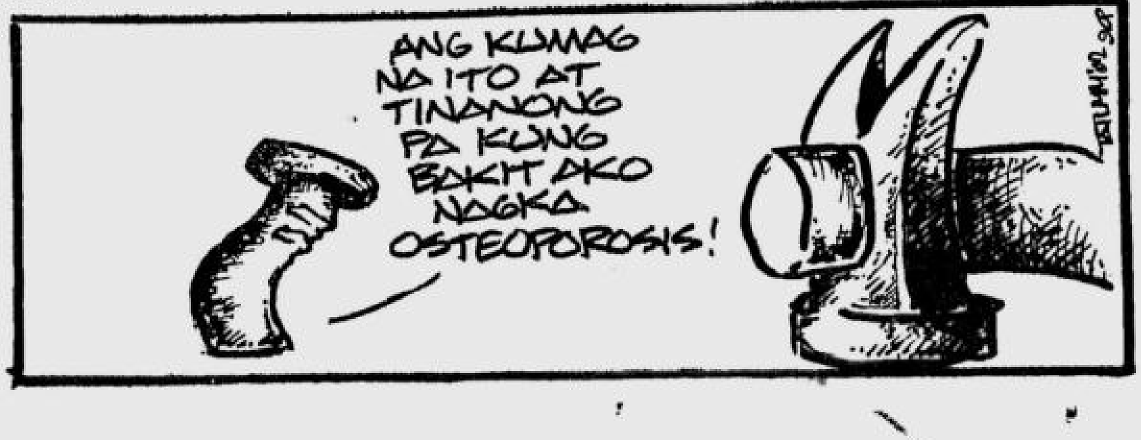
LOVEKNOTS

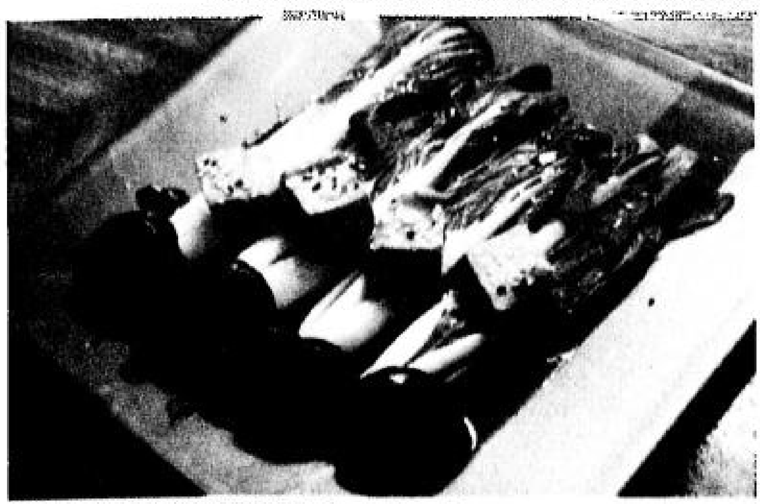
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


SIMULA NGAYON AYOKO NANG MAGALIT KAYA HINDI NA AKO MAGKU-KWENTO NG NAKAKAGALIT!!!
AKO RIN HINDI NA MAGKU-KWENTO NG MGA WORRIES KO!!!
AKO RIN HINDI NA MAGKU-KWENTO NG MGA REKLAMO KO!!!
O, ANO NA ANG PAG-UUSAPAN NATIN NGAYON?!!
A...
A...
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

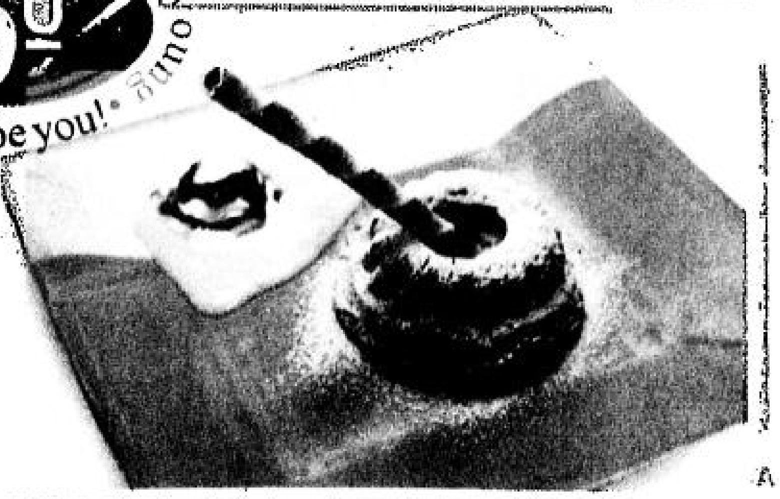
BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


ANG KUMAG NA ITO AT TINANONG PA KUNG BAKIT AKO NAGKA OSTEOPOROSIS!



VEGETARIAN DELIGHT. Tofu and mushrooms CARLO MA. GUERRERO

REASON TO FLY AGAIN. Roast duck with pancakes CARLO MA. GUERRERO



SINFUL. The flourless chocolate cake CARLO MA. GUERRERO

One last food binge in Cebu

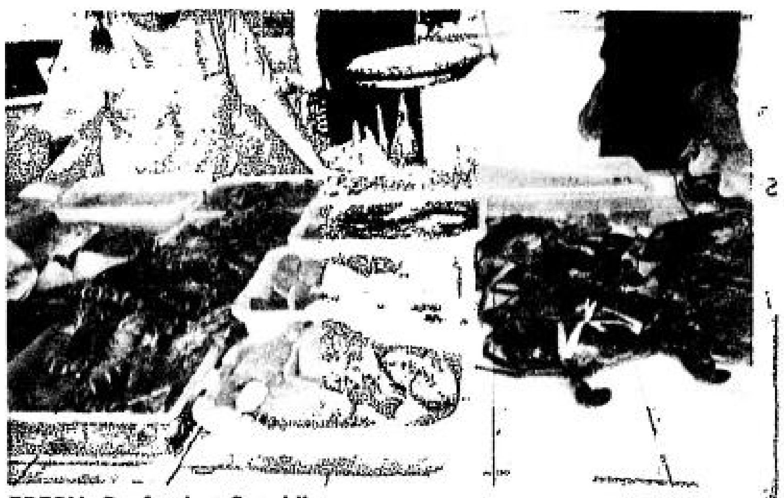
By Pam Pastor

AND I thought I knew all there was to eating out in Cebu.

During last week's trip, I faced two challenges. One, to be able to discover more Cebu treasures for the palate-adventurers. This one wasn't so hard, with food-loving Ruth Tadeo of Smart as my guide. And two, to be able to please my palate as much as I wanted—especially since I was planning to stop eating animals after getting back from the trip. (Let's just say this sudden decision involves a crying chicken being dragged by a heartless man in a Manila market.)

The second task proved to be easy, too, because of the excellent restaurants that we invaded during our trip. We had our fill of chicken, seafood, roast duck, etc.—goodies I can no longer dream about.

SAY HELLO TO DONALD. Roast duck served with three sauces CARLO MA. GUERRERO



FRESH. Seafood at Sutukil PAM PASTOR

COOKING seafood the *sugba* way PAM PASTOR

Sutukil

Mactan

If you've been to Cebu but you haven't visited Sutukil, your trip is not complete. Sutukil is famous for fresh seafood that is cooked just the way you want. The name of the restaurant is a combination of Cebuano words—"*su*," which stands for *sugba* or *inihaw*; "*tu*," which stands for *toa* or *tua* or *tinola*; and "*kil*" for "*kilaw*."

The ambiance of the place is modest—an oversized *nipa* hut over waters. But you don't go to Sutukil to admire the view or the interiors. You go there to eat—pig out, even.

A meal begins with you looking at trays and trays of raw fish, shellfish and shrimp. Choose what you want and tell the lady behind the counter how you want them cooked. Then you go inside and wait.

We had grilled crabs, shrimp with garlic sauce, grilled squid, baked scallops and parrotfish cooked in vinegar. "Sir" Mon Isberto taught us a very important secret he discovered on another trip—the best way to cook fresh crabs is to have them grilled. Eating with your hands enhances the experience.

Our peaceful meal was disrupted by a commotion outside. I thought someone had fallen into the water. Nah. The excitement was caused by the arrival of Eric Quizon. Whoopee.

Port Seafood Restaurant

Waterfront Hotel

Port became our refuge from the rain. We were on our way to Martin Nievera's concert at the Waterfront. Heavy traffic forced us to walk the few remaining blocks—and, yes, in accordance with Murphy's Law, rain started to fall. Aside from offering warmth for our bodies, Port's good food warmed our stomachs as well.

Our table was laden with *chicharon bulaklak* (P150), chicken skin (P95), fresh oysters (P165), steamed shrimps (P195), *halaan* soup (P105) and char-broiled blue marlin (P195). I couldn't bring myself to try the *lokot* salad (P65). It was too "Ghostbusters" for me.

The flavorful *sisig* (P180) is a must.

Aside from the good food, the service was commendable, too. The waiters were gracious and possessed a sense of humor. When we were exclaiming over the amount of food on our table, one said, in heavily accented English, "No more breakfast!"

Tsai

Asian Restaurant & Tea Salon

Unit 13 Crossroads Mall, Banilad Road, Cebu City

I landed on paradise. Found right in the middle of one of Cebu's hottest nightspots (believe me, there were a lot), Tsai would be heaven for people who thrived on giving their tastebuds a lip-smacking adventure. Open for only a little over a year now, Tsai might be best described as Asian fusion, Cebu style. We started the meal with *kesong puti* crostini (P60), which was topped with lemon, basil, pesto and olive oil poached tomatoes. The creamy *kesong puti* blended perfectly with the flavor of tomatoes. We ordered different dishes and shared. The roast duck, which Carlo the photographer morbidly named Donald, was served with three different sauces—ginger, hoisin and chili. The *chorizo* fried rice (homegrown Cebu *chorizo* in garlic fried rice and tomato salad topped with fried egg, P95), red curry beef stew (beef short ribs spiced with red curry and basil leaves, P180) and tofu and mushrooms (tofu with sautéed mushroom and *petchay*, P145) would be good picks. Two dishes, though, were enough reason for me to go back to Cebu. The roasted duck with pancakes (served with green onions and cucumber sticks, P185)—way better than the P60-per-pancake I used to buy in Megamall—and the *bagoong adobo* fried rice (pork *adobo* rice topped with pickled green mangoes, sweet-spicy *bagoong* and tomatoes, P120).

RUTH'S PICK. *Chorizo* rice CARLO MA. GUERRERO

There's one thing you absolutely have to remember when you go to Tsai. Leave room for dessert. Have your companions order different kinds and share. The mango panna cotta (chilled cream topped with sun-sweet mango coults, P70) was a delight. Jason, who at first refused to order dessert, couldn't get enough of it. My favorite was the flourless chocolate cake (P70), which was served with mango syrup and vanilla ice cream. The cold ice cream and warm cake blend together perfectly. The strong taste of chocolate was balanced by the sweet tang of the mango syrup and the creamy vanilla. Sheer heaven. You may also try the lemongrass crème brulée (silky lemongrass-infused custard with a classic burnt sugary crust, P80).

For the tea-connoisseurs, Tsai also offers a wide variety of hot and cold versions of the drink.

Our entire meal cost around P2,800—not bad at all, especially since eight full and happy people walked out of Tsai's doorway that night.

Now, I face endless platefuls of vegetables and fruits. My last Cebu binge seems like a faraway dream.

The Queen City of the South is synonymous with satiation

E-mail the author at cookiedoughjunkie@yahoo.com

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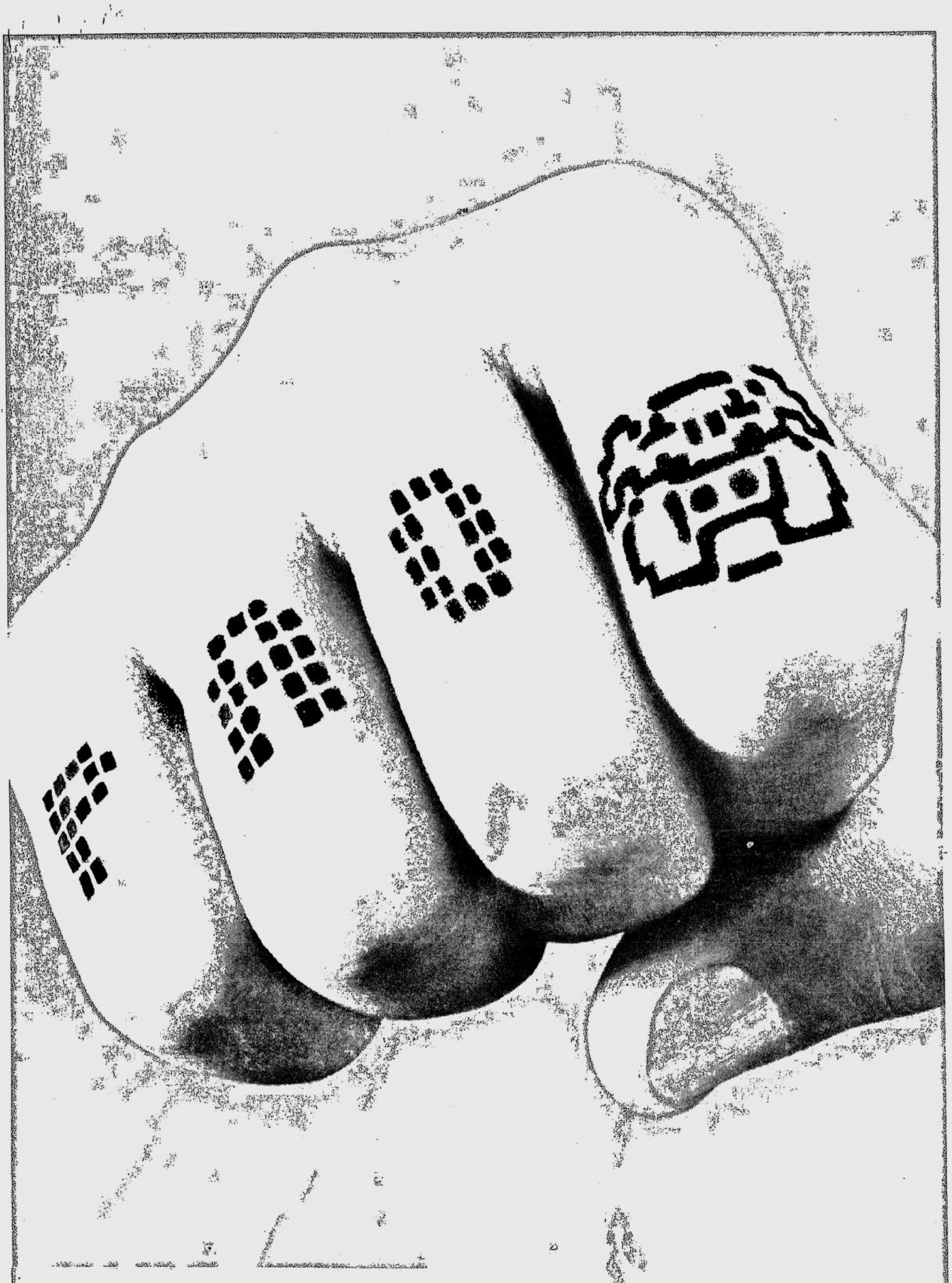

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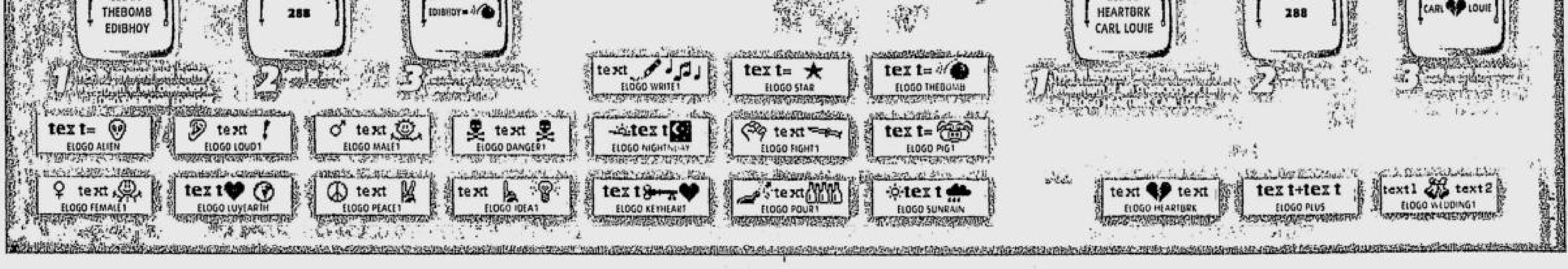

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Lusting over Legolas (and everything 'LOR')

Up to now, people haven't gotten over their hangover from the 'Rings' Hangover Party

By Maui V. Reyes
2bU! correspondent
Photos by Aldwin C. Aspillera

A*NG* favorite part *ko sa* movie *ay 'yung binato niya 'yung* calf *sa mga tao*. Then he said, 'Thou shall not worship other gods besides me!'"

Or so says Kelvin Yu of the Itchyworms!, when asked about his favorite part of the first "Lord of the Rings" installment, "The Fellowship of the Ring." "And then when Gandalf hit his staff on the ground," continued Aia de Leon of Imago. "And the Red Sea split."

It was all about music, food and prizes last Saturday, Jan. 26, at the Glorietta 4 Cinema lobby, where Tolkien and music fans alike flocked to celebrate a last hurrah for the movie. "The Lord of the Rings Hangover Party," a first of many celebrations to come from a partnership between NU 107, Ayala Cinema and 2bU!, brought together "Lord of the Rings" fans with the music of <S>andwich, Itchyworms!, Imago and Slapshock. It was only 6 p.m. and already a line, most of them clutching the ring 2bU! published last Wednesday, had formed in front of the NU 107 registration booth.

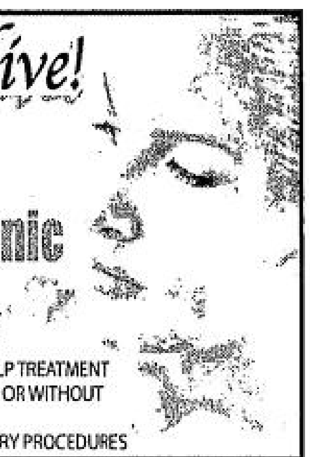
Raffle

By 8 p.m., the crowd had moved on to the free food, provided by Outback, Lipton Iced Tea and Zagu. The show started with hosts NU DJs Joey and Spike (girls are still swooning over this Ethan Hawke look-alike), raffling off prizes to those with stubs. "Lord of the Rings" soundtracks, post-

LUSTING/ p.D2

NU's head honcho Atom Henares head-bangs, too. We swear!

FANS get ready to rumble.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PARTYGOERS Raymund, Stephanie, Mica and Liberty hang out with <S>'s Marc Abaya.

"PARE, *'di ba taga*-'Harry Potter' *ka*?" Jugs Jugueta, Jazz Nicolas and Chino Singson of Itchyworms! pick on Kelvin Yu.

SLAPSHOCK'S Lean signs some autographs.

BUNNY Lazatin of Ayala, Joey of NU and the author get interviewed by E! Philippines.

Lusting over Legolas

(and everything 'LOR')

From page D1)

ers and "The Fellowship of the Ring" books were among the many prizes raffled off, as well as goodies from Ayala and 2bU!

Bands started to take the stage—<S>andwich were first to rock the crowd, playing songs off their second album "4 Track Mind." Imago's Aia de Leon added spice to their performance of "Love Is," a teaser of Aia's powerful vocals to follow. Chicosci's guitarist Mong sessioned for the band. The Itchyworms! lead vocalist and guitarist Jugs donned an acoustic guitar and did a semi-acoustic set, with their familiar banter in between (Chino: "*Parang kamukha ni* Diego [of <S>andwich] *si* Frodo, *'di ba?*"). We wonder if one day they'll decide to do one of the many fillers in their debut album, "Little Monsters Under Your Bed," live.

Imago followed with a semi-acoustic performance as well, and fans were treated to NU 107's Best New Vocalist Aia de Leon's soulful vocals. Their live rendition of "Rain Song" caused the crowd to erupt in shrieks of ecstasy. The audience was lucky enough to witness them perform their new song, "Untitled" (simply titled, since Aia couldn't seem to find an appropriate title for it yet). We wouldn't be surprised if the partygoers rushed to the nearest record store to purchase the band's debut, "Probably Not, But Most Definitely."

Fully acoustic

Slapshock was the only band out of the four to go fully acoustic. Known for their rapcore music, the crowd wanted to see what stunts the band would do when they armed themselves with acoustic guitars. It was then that the crowd got up on its feet, started moshing (much to the horror of the Ayala security guards), and moved with the band as well as sang along to every single lyric that vocalist Jamir Garcia shelled out.

"Challenging *sa amin* [mag-acoustic], *sobra*," bassist Lee Nadela said. "*Kaya mas-nagjajam kami 'pag* acoustic. Normally we don't jam as much if it's an electric performance. It's more fun playing electric because that's where the energy is."

We beg to disagree. With the energy exuded by the crowd, it was hard to believe the band only rehearsed for that performance the night before.

After Slapshock did their encore, Joey announced the big surprise that evening: a last full screening of "Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring" at 12 midnight. Fans hung around after the event to mingle with the bands and score autographs and pics.

"The Fellowship" might have dissolved, but music and "LOR" fans alike went home as happy bunnies. Here's to a new fellowship!

Thanks are in order to the following for the kick-ass rock music, food and goodies: THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER's 2bU!, NU 107.5, Ayala Cinema, Infocom, Outback Steakhouse, Zagu, Lipton Iced Tea and Warner Music Philippines (special thanks to Mony Romana).

SLAPSHOCK'S Lee Nadela does some country.

A TASTE of Aia with <S>andwich

TIM "the bem" Cacho of Imago

MONG of Chicosci sessions for <S>andwich

"LOR" fan Chinky Alcaraz, who's seen the film a record of 13 times, says her favorite part was when "Gandalf faced the Balrog."

HANNAH and Goldie. They really dress this way every day. Really.

THE AUTHOR with the chief, Pam Pastor

"AND the beat goes on..." Raimund Marasigan and those magic hands

MARC Abaya of <S>andwich. Yum!

FRODO Baggins in action. (Diego Castillo of <S>andwich)

***"Siguro kung gagalingan ko ang pagtugtog, bibigyan ako ng libreng poster"*... Mylene Academia**

ARVIN in his element.

THEY'RE all in black. When did Ringwraiths look this good? JP Gonzales, Trici Nicolas, Jane Pronstroller and Kel Hernandez

LOOKIN' good as ever. Ene Lagunsad

***PENDONG! Tatlong bokalista!* Rivermaya's Rico Blanco, Sugarfree's Ebe Dancel and Itchyworms!'s Jugs Jugueta**

RIVERMAYA'S Rico Blanco and Slapshock's Jamir Garcia. Rock star *pala eh*...

IT'S all about music and food, guys.

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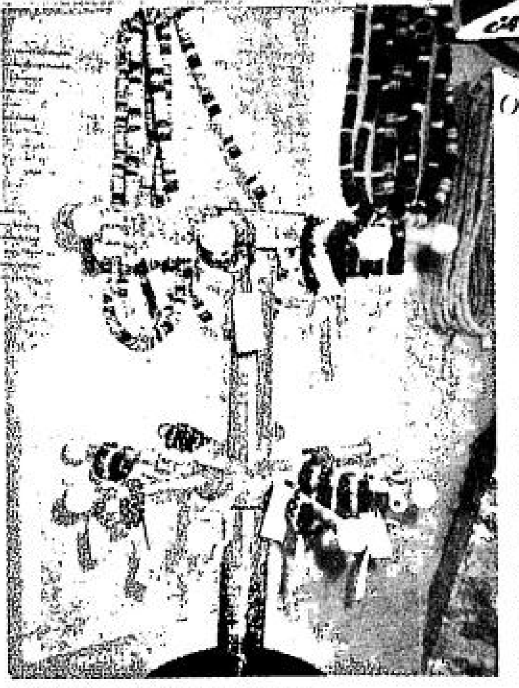

RINGS and more from Avatar

NATIVE handbags (Cebu Shine Land)

The shopaholic's Cebu

WHILE the whole world (okay, that's an exaggeration) knows that you can buy dried mangoes and *danggit* in Cebu, hardly anyone knows that the Queen City of the South is a haven for the accessory-obsessed.

In preparation for the trip, I surfed the Net in search of stores that would make any shopaholic drool. The results became a map of sorts for Jason, Ruth and I during the one afternoon we set aside for shopping.

Though off to a bad start, it was one satisfying journey.

Cebu Shine Land Co.
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Our first stop was a tiny house-showroom that screamed "country." There were hardly any accessories—mostly beaded ones that could easily be found in Manila.

There were excellent woodcrafts and home décor and, naturally, the prices were a bit steep. We spent a lot of time going around the store and admiring the handicrafts. We left the story with only one purchase—chopsticks for Maui's hair.

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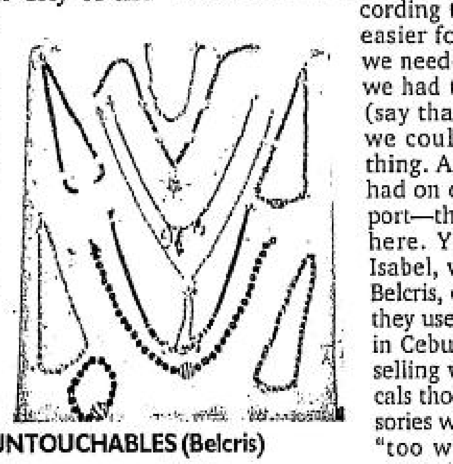
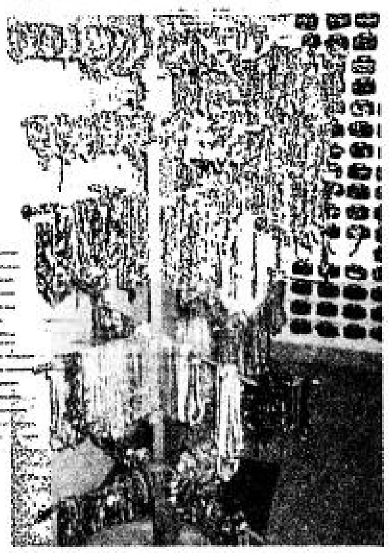


UNTOUCHABLES (Belcris)



THE OLDER designs from Belcris

Belcris has become a synonym for frustration for us. Finding it wasn't all that easy. After a few phone calls, we were asked to go to a small Internet shop. From there, a girl led us up several flights of stairs. A door opened and the three of us gasped. A big white room was filled with endless displays of colorful jewelry and bags. The accessories were even arranged according to color, making it easier for us to spot what we needed. Unfortunately, we had to stop at spotting (say that 10 times fast)—we couldn't buy a single thing. All the jewelry they had on display was for export—they were never sold here. Yes, never (sniff). Isabel, whose family owns Belcris, explained to us that they used to sell accessories in Cebu—but they weren't selling well because the locals thought that the accessories were "too exotic" and "too weird." We tried to convince her to sell us a few—"just this once," we persisted. But she wouldn't budge. Poor Ruth, she had her heart set on a blue and silver necklace and bracelet set. We wanted to hate Isabel but we couldn't. She was just too nice. She even offered to let us choose one souvenir each from the older displays but we just couldn't. We sadly left Belcris with empty hands.

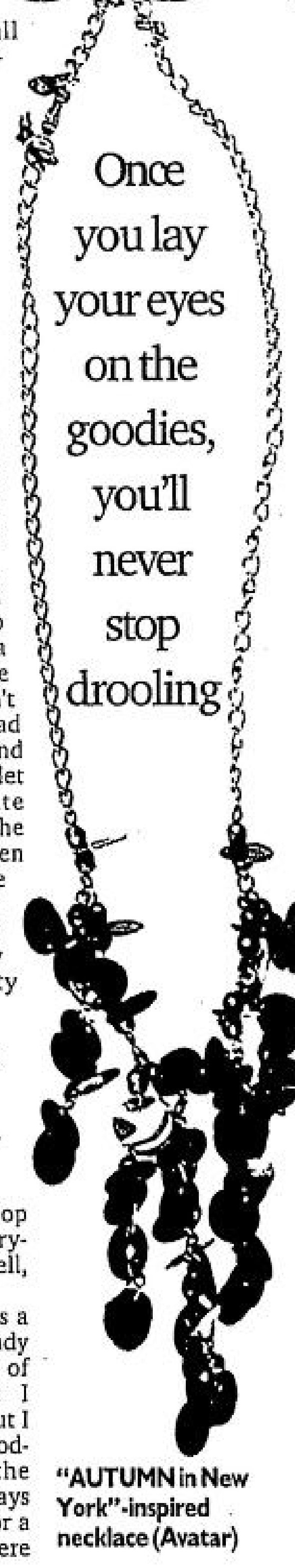
Avatar Accessories
Bella Vista Hotel
ML Quezon Highway
Lapu-Lapu 6915 Mactan
+63 323407821

Our trip to the gift shop of Bella Vista Hotel completely turned everything around. We went absolutely crazy—well, with the exception of Jason, that is.

Avatar Accessories is a big Cebu secret. I already have quite a number of their earrings that I bought from Happy—but I wanted to see all the goodies myself. I texted the owner of Avatar a few days before the trip—turns out he was in Milan for a trade show. He gladly said that the goods were available at the Bella Vista Hotel—and at factory prices, too. Hurrah!

P55
P45
P100

Earrings by Avatar Accessories



Once you lay your eyes on the goodies, you'll never stop drooling

"AUTUMN in New York"-inspired necklace (Avatar)

This stop was the most anticipated one. And we were not disappointed at all.

Ruth and I found ourselves sitting on the carpeted floor, poring over the dozens of earrings on display. My head was spinning with the endless choices. Roger, Bella Vista's guest relations officer, was gracious and accommodating. He even handed me a basket where I could dump my loot. He kept telling us about their celebrity customers. We must have spent over an hour there, sprawled on the floor, going through all the earrings, bracelets and necklaces again and again and again. Jason chose a pair of earrings and a necklace for his sister. Sir Mon asked us to help him pick out jewelry for his daughter.

If you think Avatar is hard on the pockets, think again. I bought a dozen pairs of earrings, a bracelet, a necklace and a bag and I went out with my wallet only P1,100 lighter.

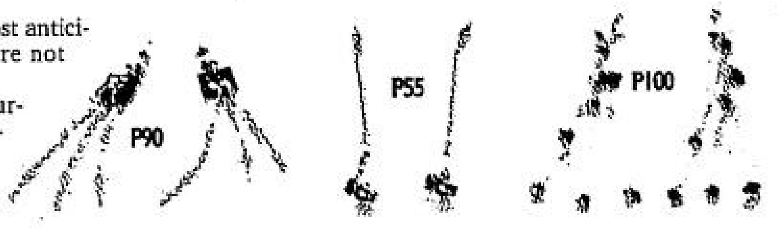
The thought of another trip to Bella Vista Hotel is enough to make me want to fly to Cebu again.

Kuting-things
Ayala Center

I was alone when I went to Kuting-things. The stocks had hardly changed since my last Cebu trip. Kuting-things is always good, though—colorful trinkets at great prices. I just hope I see newer stuff when I go back next time.

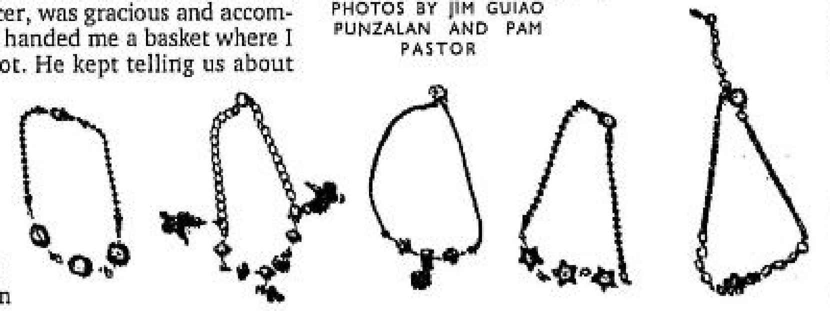
For people who are in constant search of perfect accessories, you may just find what you're looking for in happy, glorious Cebu.

Pam Pastor

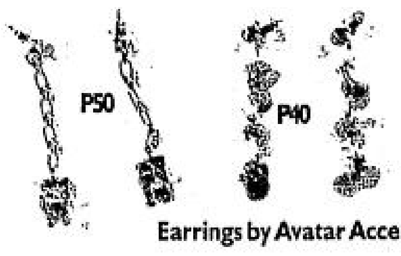


Earrings by Avatar Accessories

PHOTOS BY JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN AND PAM PASTOR



ANTIQUE-LOOKING bracelets from Kuting-things



Earrings by Avatar Accessories

THESE bags were made for looking. (Belcris)

Hair and skin care products are in your own kitchen

Kinny Salas

You might never have to leave home for your skin and hair essentials

I WAS in Australia for a two-month holiday and managed to get some tips from several beauty therapists I met. Australians are very big on what is "natural." Herbal supplements and medication are preferred to so-called over-the-counter drugs.

Herbalists and environmentalists veer away from anything too commercial or filled with chemical. I saved so much of my pocket money by not going to the pharmacies for my beauty fixes. I was quite content raiding my aunt and uncle's kitchen and home products. Believe me, one look at their complexions and you would try these "natural" remedies, too. This article is dedicated to readers who, at one point, ran out of their favorite products or money to buy them. You'd be surprised, you might never have to leave home for your skin essentials.

Vinegar—The change of weather affected the performance of my favorite shampoo here in the Philippines that my otherwise shiny hair ended up lackluster and limp due to residue buildup. After shampooing, conditioning and rinsing thoroughly, I mixed ¼ cup vinegar in six cups of cool to cold water (I have long hair) for my final rinse to restore the shine in my hair.

Water has to be cool to cold so hair cuticles will lie flat and not look scraggly. Vinegar washed off the residue build-up but did not eliminate the benefits of the conditioner.

Extra virgin olive oil—1. For extra dry skin, it should be applied lightly or sprayed with a mister on damp skin after a hot shower to lock in moisture. The oil keeps skin supple till the next bath.

2. For the hair, one to three tablespoons (depends on hair length) should be heated on a stove or microwave. The hair is then massaged using the hot oil then covered with a shower cap or wrapped with cling wrap. Rinse after 10-30 minutes (depending on your preference).

Powdered milk—1. It washes and exfoliates normal to oily skin while leaving enough moisture to keep it supple. Wet your face then apply one teaspoon dry powder, massage on, then rinse. The milk grains will lift dead skin and the lactic acid will buff rough, scaly patches. The procedure also helps even out skin tone and texture.

2. For dark elbows and knees, make a paste with one teaspoon dry powder, lemon juice (for bleaching and sloughing) and some water. Rub on knees and elbows. Wait 10 minutes before rinsing.

Oatmeal—1. It makes an excellent facial mask for dry skin when mixed with warm water.

2. Oatmeal can also be made into a body wash to relieve dry, red and itchy skin caused by severe cold weather or allergy. A scoop of oatmeal should be wrapped in cheesecloth, gauze or thin face towel and mixed with water. Squeeze and rub the preparation over the whole body and rinse. The mixture is great for exfoliating dry skin.

Chilled potato slices—They hold more water than cucumber so are better for soothing puffy eyes. To speed up the process, they may be dipped in thick cream or yogurt. The lactic acid in these dairy products allows liquid to be released making the swelling subside. Other puffy eye remedies are cold spoons, cold chamomile teabags and cucumber slices.

Iodized salt—When mixed with liquid soap or shower gel, it becomes a very inexpensive yet effective body scrub. The preparation gets rid of dead skin and evens out skin tone and texture. People with sensitive skin should take more care as the mixture might be too abrasive for them.

For any questions or products you want to road-test, write to Make Over 911, PDI Lifestyle or fax at 8974805

Tofupillo
Tofupillo

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- Dr. Steven R. Goldstein of Norway

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MENU 1
Diabolico Panini (grilled chicken breast, gruyere cheese, herb-garlic oil on ciabatta) and Pomodoro Pasta (plum tomatoes, fresh basil in extra virgin olive oil)

MENU 2
Bianco e Verde Panini (sliced chicken and asparagus pate on white bread) and Al Sole Pasta (sun-dried tomatoes, capers, anchovies and garlic)

MENU 3
Marino Panini (tuna and caper salad, garlic oil, tomato and lettuce on pane Arabo) and Ragu Pasta (classic meat sauce from Emilia-Romagna in Italy)

Valentine's dinners can bring out the romantic in you and your sweetie

Area
CAFE
Area
O

This Area is for lovers only

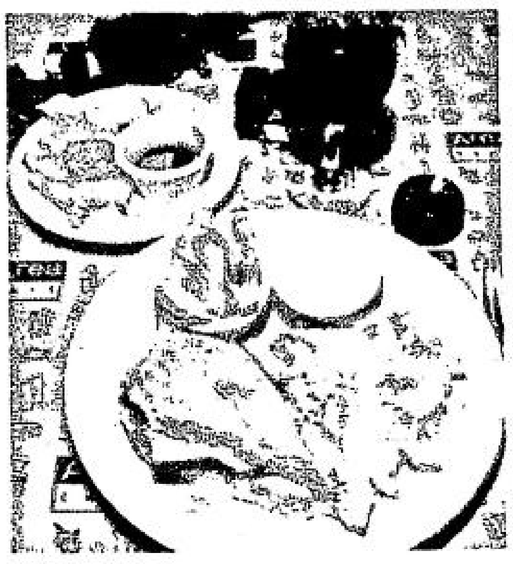
WINNERS of the 2bU!-Power Plant Valentine Blowout will be enjoying any of five menus especially created for lovey-dovey couples.

These menus include a side salad, a glass of wine and chocolate-covered almond stuffed dates.

The 2bU! correspondents had the chance to sample the dishes last Thursday night.

They had different picks. That's the good thing about the variety of menus—people are sure to find one that they like the most. Area's menus would please everyone—from the chicken lovers to the vegetarians.

The portions are just right—they hit the spot, but not to the point of making you feel you would burst. They leave you still eager and ready for games, bowling and a movie.



MENU 4
Greco Panini (grilled smokey eggplant, Greek feta cheese, herb-garlic oil on ciabatta) and Contadino Pasta (fresh asparagus and sautéed bacon in a light cream sauce)

MENU 5
Verdura Panini (grilled eggplant, red peppers, zucchini, onions, pesto on ciabatta) and Pesto Pasta (fresh basil, parmesan and pine nut sauce from Genoa)

2BU!–POWER PLANT VALENTINE BLOWOUT

Perfect pair, perfect date

VALENTINE'S Day is almost here again. And while most of us single freaks cringe in anticipation, searching for rocks to hide under, a lot of people are eagerly waiting for the day's arrival in all its mushy glory. You lucky fools.

In our desire to make your Valentine's even happier (like that's possible), 2bU! and the Power Plant mall have come together to bring to you the 2bU!-Power Plant Valentine Blowout.

Joining is a breeze. Just send a picture of you and your loved one and tell us how you plan to make this year's Valentine's memorable. Get as creative as you want.

You may either e-mail us at 2bucontest@inquirer.com.ph or mail to/drop your entries at the Philippine Daily Inquirer *Building, corner Chino Roces Avenue and Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati. Deadline of submission is noon of Feb. 10. Winners will be announced on Feb. 13.*

The prizes

10 Ultra-power Date Packages

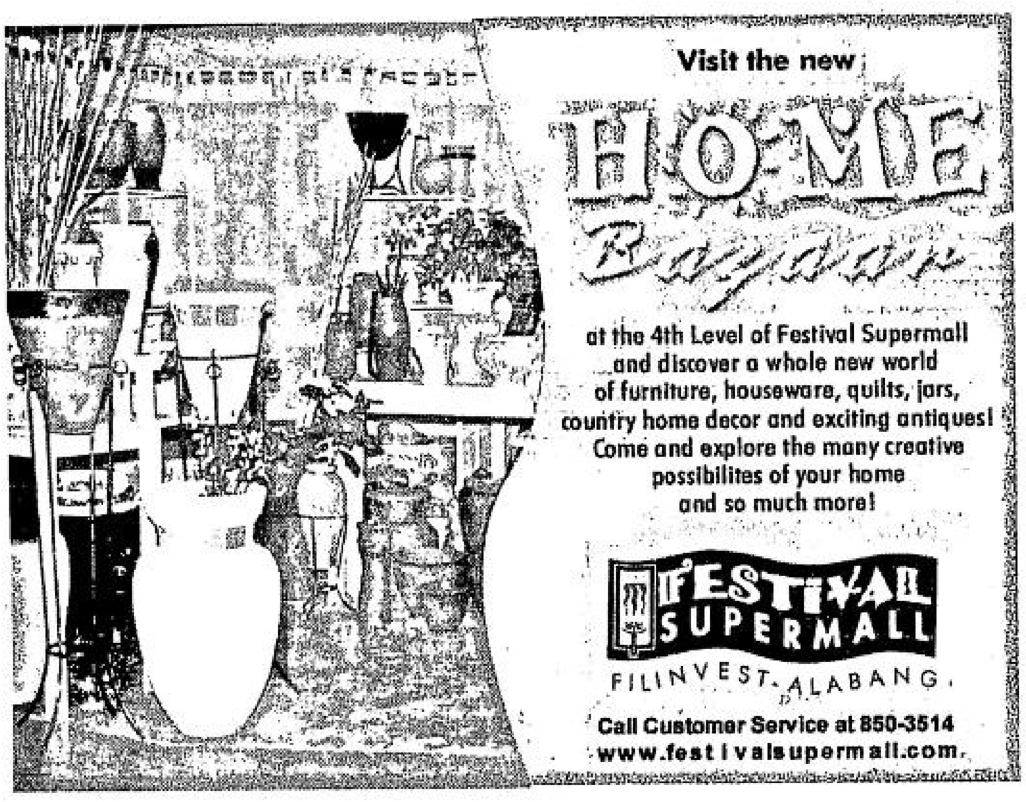
Begin with a special Valentine's dinner at the Area or O Café. Then head to the Power Station for games and excitement. Send balls rolling at the Power Bowl and when you're all pooped, settle back for a nice movie at the Power Plant Cinema.

10 Power Date Packages

Have dinner at Area or O Café and then spend the evening trying to beat each other at different games at the Power Station.

Consolation Prizes

Get your adrenaline pumping. Ten Power Station gift certificates will be given away. Don't forget to try the new games. (Good news—they now have a Percussion Freaks machine.)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